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Jordan

King Husayn criticized Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in both a recent speech and an interview with a British paper, Paris Radio Monte Carlo reports. In the speech he is said to have "implicitly" referred to Saddam by emphasizing the "need to stand up to the ambitious...and to those who advocate tyranny or tie the destiny of nations to individuals." During the interview with the British paper, he "affirmed that he never was, and will never be, ready to ally himself with a ruling faction which, in the eyes of history, could be partially or fully responsible for the destruction of Iraq, for its fragmentation, or for the catastrophe that such an occurrence would bring to the region." AL-RA'Y newspaper carries a rebuttal of this interpretation of the king's speech. Columnist Tariq Masarwah says: "He very clearly called for removing from the Arabs' lives dictatorships, tyrants, and the plunderers of peoples' wealth. Israeli, London, and Monte Carlo radios understood this to be a denunciation of a certain Arab regime, whose destruction is of interest to these same radios, not for reasons related to dictatorship, tyrannical regimes, or plundering peoples' wealth, but because the masters in Washington, London, and Paris wanted this to be said."

Iran

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has told IRNA that Iran has "no intention" of resuming relations with the United States. Commenting on the possibility that the change in U.S. administrations might affect relations between Tehran and Washington, Velayati said that Iran has seen "both the Democrats and the Republicans in power" and has never noticed "a major difference in their policies" toward Iran.

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Abd-al-Shafi on Peace Process Under Clinton

TA0811080892 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Report on interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, by Eldad Beck in Washington; date not given—recorded; 'Abd-al-Shafi's remarks in English]

[Text] [Beck] The Palestinians have not yet formed contacts with President-elect Clinton and his people, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi admits; it is too early to adopt such a move, as Clinton has not yet selected all his advisers. Still, 'Abd-al-Shafi is not overly concerned about Clinton's pro-Israeli declarations during the election campaign. According to 'Abd-al-Shafi, these declarations will be subject to change due to the new administrations' intentions.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Well, I know that the main emphasis is going to be on domestic affairs, but I think—and as Clinton indicated in his short statement after he was elected—the peace process is going to receive due attention from this administration.

[Beck translates and continues] As for the rumors that Jimmy Carter will return to handling the peace process, 'Abd-al-Shafi says he would welcome this.

['Abd-al-Shafi] At least I know that Carter is knowledgeable about the complexities of the situation. He has dealt with it in the past, and I imagine he has gained some important experience.

[Beck translates and continues] The peace process supports justice, and in 'Abd-al-Shafi's opinion, Carter, using the experience he gained, would be able to adopt the correct positions toward the process. At the same time, 'Abd-al-Shafi does not expect that progress will be achieved in the negotiations during the change of administration. The takeoff of the peace process largely depends on Israel and a change in its tough, uncompromising positions.

['Abd-al-Shafi] That means that some pressure should be exercised on Israel to do that. I don't think what they call a lame duck administration will be able to do such a thing; nevertheless, we will adopt a wait-and-see attitude.

[Beck translates and continues] 'Abd-al-Shafi finds it difficult to assess whether the new administration will remain committed to the letters of guarantees that were given the various parties, but the important point, 'Abd-al-Shafi emphasizes, is a commitment to the terms of reference of the process, especially Resolution 242.

As for the joint agenda which Israel and Jordan are slated to sign, 'Abd-al-Shafi refrains from criticizing Jordan. He does not doubt Jordan's positions and its awareness of all elements involved in the process. According to 'Abd-al-Shafi, there is no need to specify all the issues on the agenda, and Jordan will be able to express its opinion about the Palestinians' rights in a more extensive manner in the course of the negotiations.

Palestinian Delegate on Next Round, Clinton

NC0811140092 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks in Washington, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. 'Urayqat, welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

['Urayqat] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Could you tell us about the results of the latest Palestinian meeting in Tunis under the chairmanship of President Yasir 'Arafat, and about Palestinian preparations for the resumption of the seventh round of peace talks tomorrow?

['Urayqat] The meeting was part of a series of meetings between the Palestinian delegation and the Palestinian leadership. As negotiations go on, we meet every weekend. The instructions of the leadership are still clear and well defined; namely, a basic link between the transitional period and the final arrangements on the basis of UN Resolution 242. The geographic jurisdiction should involve all Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem. Emphasis is also placed on human rights, as expressed in the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. The transitional arrangements should be understood as a means toward the ultimate objective—Israel's withdrawal and the implementation of Resolution 242. Finally, the elections must be general, political, and legislative. This is in addition to our assertion, which we have been repeating since the negotiations started, that the settlement activity in the occupied territories is illegal. These are the broad lines of the recent discussions in Tunis.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] After the meeting of the Palestinian leadership in Tunis, what are the Palestinian preparations for the resumption of the seventh round of the peace negotiations?

['Urayqat] As I said, the preparations are based on the above issues. We are fully ready for the second part of the seventh round of talks. However, we do not know the new Israeli inclinations following last week's elections in the United States. Will the Israeli delegation offer new ideas or papers? Will it continue its old policy of focusing on the transitional period as a goal in itself? Will it come to procrastinate and hinder the movement until power is handed over to U.S. President-elect Clinton?

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. 'Urayqat, in light of the outcome of the U.S. elections, how do you expect Clinton's victory to reflect on the Middle East issue?

['Urayqat] U.S. interests in the region will determine the answer to this question. The Middle East is, for the United States, a vast entanglement of interests. The change of faces at the White House will not alter the essence of U.S. policy in the region, although we may see a change of style, method, and approach. I believe that the peace process will not be affected for various reasons:

As I said before, the U.S. has vast interests in the region. To preserve these interests, it is necessary to maintain and achieve progress in the peace process. Furthermore, the peace process in itself represents a great accomplishment that cannot be ignored by a new administration that is eager to assert its leadership in the post-Cold War era. Another thing is that the Middle East region is now devoid of any influence other than that of the United States. Therefore, it will be easy for President-elect Clinton to maintain Bush's policy. This is particularly true in matters that bear on the U.S. domestic economy. Also, it is easier to score a foreign policy success in the Middle East than, for instance, in Bosnia-Hercegovina or Russia and the other republics. This is an additional incentive to press for progress in the Middle East talks.

Before the beginning of the Madrid conference, the United States played an active role in the peace process, sending James Baker to the region frequently and intervening in every detail. This role has actually stopped with the beginning of Madrid conference. Instead, we now depend on the principles contained in the letters of invitation and assurance. It is my opinion that the Clinton administration will be fully committed to these principles.

When Clinton spoke about foreign policy, he put the Middle East crisis and the peace process at the top of his priorities. From all the above, we may safely conclude that the peace process will not be affected, but on the contrary will receive a boost from the Clinton administration. Clinton has to lead the United States in the transitional phase that we are going through now; that is, the post-Cold War era.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. 'Urayqat, in the light of the first phase of the seventh round of the peace negotiations, and following the U.S. elections, you mentioned that Israel may come up with new ideas. Do you have new proposals of your own that you will put forward during the seventh round of peace talks?

['Urayqat] As I said, we deal with the peace process on the basis of those principles that were clearly stated in the letter of invitation, defining a peace process based on UN Security Council Resolution 242 and 338. This is the starting point for Palestinian diplomacy. We have presented many papers and made several initiatives in this regard, but regrettably the Israelis still see the transitional phase as a goal in itself and not a means. We have new ideas that are in keeping with the integrity and principles of the peace process. We will see on Monday what the Israeli side will bring to the talks. At the end of the last round, we gave the Israelis a list of questions that needed to be answered. We hope that the Israelis will adopt a new approach that suits the requirements, foundation, and principles of the peace talks.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Thank you.

['Urayqat] You are welcome.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Officials on New U.S. Government

'Abd-al Majid on 'Positive' Statement

NC0711214392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2112 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid returned to Cairo this evening from a four-day visit to Spain, during which he was received by Spanish King Juan Carlos, Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, and Foreign Minister Javier Solana.

Upon his return, 'Abd-al-Majid said he believes the peace process in the Middle East will continue and that U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton expressed his support for the process, as well as his concern over maintaining it.

He said this is positive and good. He added that the Arab-Israeli negotiations which will resume Monday in Washington are a continuation of the previous meetings which started in Madrid last October.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that there are constant contacts between the Arab League and Arab delegations participating in the negotiations. This, he added, realizes everyone's interests, and the Arab League is following the current negotiations in this regard due to the importance of establishing peace in the region.

The Arab League secretary general pointed out that the U.S. president-elect announced during his election campaign that he will concentrate on the economic problems inside his country, but this does not mean he will ignore international events in this arena. Undoubtedly, he will give them the necessary attention.

He clarified that his visit to Spain was an opportunity to exchange viewpoints on Arab-Spanish relations, especially since next year Spain will be a member of the UN Security Council. [passage omitted]

'Adnan 'Imran Comments

NC0711080292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2154 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—'Adnan 'Imran, Arab League assistant secretary general for political affairs,

has expressed his hope that the U.S. Administration will be responsive to Arabs' inclination toward achieving a comprehensive peace and will contribute to opening a new chapter in the Middle East.

In a statement upon arrival in Cairo from Tunis, ending a tour that also took him to Spain, he said that the previous statements that U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton made during the election campaign were part of his preelection campaign. 'Imran said the Arab League will deal with any administration to achieve peace and establish good relations between the Arabs and the United States.

'Imran participated in a number of seminars during his week-long trip to the two countries.

Cordon States Ministers To Meet in Beirut

NC0811111592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0947 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Beirut, 8 Nov (MENA)—PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi has said that the foreign ministers of the Arab cordon states will meet in Beirut next week to discuss the peace process and outline plans for future action.

Qaddumi, currently visiting Damascus, said in a press statement published here today that the PLO insists on the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338 and categorically rejects administrative self-rule [al-hukm al-idari al-dhati]. However, he pointed out that he has not lost hope in the success of the peace process.

He described his talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in Damascus as very productive. He said the discussions focused on the eagerness to achieve a comprehensive peace whereby all Palestinian and Syrian rights are restored, especially after the latest developments, the victory of Clinton, and the presence of a new U.S. Administration.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Chief Wants Military Intervention in Bosnia

LD0711124892 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Dr. Hamid Algabid, Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] secretary general, today called for military intervention in Bosnia-Hercegovina to protect Muslims against atrocities committed by the Serbs. Dr. Algabid sent an appeal to UN Secretary General Dr. Butros Ghali stressing the need to impose economic sanctions on the Serbs. The appeal says: It has become necessary to intervene militarily in Bosnia-Hercegovina to stop the massacres committed by the Serbs against the Muslims there.

ICO To Discuss Bosnian Crisis at Dec Meeting

LD0511224992 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1420 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Jeddah, 5 Nov (SPA)—Dr. Hamid Algabid, secretary-general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], has announced that the foreign ministers of the Islamic states are going to hold an extraordinary meeting in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in early December to discuss the situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina. The meeting is called at the invitation of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques.

A press statement released by Dr. Algabid said: "At the good invitation of the government of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and following intensive consultations between the ICO member-states, an extraordinary meeting of the ICO's foreign ministers will convene on 1 and 2 December 1992 in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to discuss the serious deterioration of the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina as a result of Serbian aggression."

The statement added that the foreign ministers of the ICO's member-states would examine this issue from all aspects and discuss ways to put a quick end to the tragedy of the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina. The foreign ministers of the Islamic states held an extraordinary meeting for the same purpose last July in Istanbul.

No Change in U.S. Policy Foreseen

LD0511195592 Tehran IRNA in English 1238 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Athens, Nov. 5, IRNA—Islamic leaders view that both Bush and Clinton are two sides of the same coin and that Clinton would continue supporting the Zionist state at the expense of Muslims.

A leader of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, Mustafa Mashour, commenting on the U.S. presidential election results told IRNA by phone from Cairo Thursday, "in our eyes replacement of Bush with Clinton is like the change of Shamir with Rabin. Changes of presidents do not effect American policy."

"We do not hope for any changes in their policies, although Clinton in his election campaign was stressing support for the Jews. He will try to continue the Middle East peace process and support Israel," Mashour said.

Rabeh Kabir, the spokesman for Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in a statement faxed to IRNA from Germany said, "in consideration that the U.S. is a super power and it has world influence, we hope that the political leadership will concern itself seriously with the issue of freedom of the choice of the people without discrimination, whatever be the choice of the people. This power must be on the side of the people and not on

the side of dictatorial regimes. This is what would give this country credibility in the eyes of the people."

The spokesman for the Islamic Liberation Party (Hizb al-Tahrir) in Jordan, Ata Bau Rashta, speaking to IRNA from Amman by phone said, "for the Muslims both are the same. Their acts are the same. Bush is more capable in foreign politics than Clinton. He was more concerned with foreign policies than domestic issues."

"This is only a difference of approaches. But both are dangerous on the same level for the Islamic world. Both are supporters of Israel against the interests of the Muslims," he said.

Palestinian Affairs

Clinton Impact on Arab-Israeli Peace Talks Viewed

'Arafat Urges Talks With PLO

NC0711104492 Paris AFP in English 0937 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Nicosia, Nov 7 (AFP)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat on Saturday urged U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton to renew Washington's dialogue with his organisation after a break of more than two years.

"We hope the U.S. administrations, both the old and the new, are able to take an important decision on the resumption of the dialogue with the PLO," 'Arafat said in an interview with the Arabic newspaper AL-HAYAT.

"Every time we raised the issue, they replied: 'After the American elections'," the Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman told the London-based newspaper, which is also published in the Middle East.

Washington decided in June 1990 to break off its dialogue with the PLO after an aborted Palestinian raid on Tel Aviv beaches that the organisation refused to condemn.

'Arafat also said he hoped Clinton, who beat George Bush in Tuesday's presidential election and takes office in January, would not follow up on his pro-Israeli stands, such as a call to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

'Arafat urged the Clinton administration "not to delay in turning to the Middle East question." The comments were Arafat's first on the Clinton victory Tuesday.

On the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories, he warned the Islamic movement Hamas opposed to the U.S.-sponsored Arab-Israeli peace talks that the PLO's "patience has limits".

Referring to clashes between Hamas and the PLO's mainstream Fatah group, he accused the movement of "resorting to arms after their failure in various local elections" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Dialogue With U.S Urged

LD0611194792 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member, has urged the new U.S. Administration to shoulder the responsibility of meeting Palestinian demands, given the fact that Washington is one of the main sponsors of the peace talks. He pointedly asserted the need for Palestinians to receive a clear reply on these issues so that credibility may be given to the peace process.

In an interview published in ECH CHEROUK in Tunis yesterday, Thursday, Brother 'Abd-Rabbuh stated that the new U.S. Administration under the leadership of President Bill Clinton cannot retract from the peace process. He pointed out that Washington might try to give the peace process a new momentum because to freeze it would end it and would give the wrong impression of the real aims of the United States. Brother 'Abd-Rabbuh expressed the hope that the internal change which the United States has witnessed will be a positive factor in bringing pressure to bear upon Israel and preventing it from carrying out its repressive policies in occupied territories. He also expressed his belief that there is a need for a change in the nature of Palestinian-U.S. relations and that a dialogue should be started with the PLO. He said that this would be a principal factor in helping the peace process to attain palpable progress.

'Abd-al-Shafi Views Talks

NC0911091992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Report by Correspondent George Yazbik from Washington—recorded]

[Text] The wheel of the peace negotiations will roll again today following a recess during which a change took place in the presidency of the United States, which is one of the peace process' sponsors. The Arab delegations did not meet during this recess because some of the delegations returned home for consultations. They are expected to meet today following the first session of negotiations with the Israeli delegation.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, has called—through the Voice of Lebanon—on the new U.S. president to appoint a special representative to follow up the negotiations, pointing out that Israeli-Palestinian differences still revolve around the powers of the interim Palestinian government. How does the head of the Palestinian delegation view the situation in light of the election of a new U.S. President?

The U.S. elections took place during this lost time—if it is possible to call it that—between the end of one stage and the start of another. In your opinion, will Clinton's victory or Bush's defeat affect the course of negotiations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] This is a difficult question to answer. I think the issue of Middle East peace is closely linked to how much the world, particularly the United States and the Western democracies, respect the principles and ideals which they embrace, namely international law, human rights, and UN resolutions. If they are faithful to these principles, there will be no problem. The issue of peace will be secure. It is being said that the new U.S. President will pay particular attention to the economic situation in his country; however, after his victory he said he is interested in the Middle East peace process. Hence, if he, for example, appoints a special representative to follow up the negotiations, the peace process will continue and will not be affected. He also affirmed that until he officially takes over, he will support Bush's efforts. This means that he gave the green light to Bush and Baker to continue overseeing the peace process. I think that in all likelihood the change of presidents will not affect the peace process whatsoever.

New U.S. Administration Viewed

LD0811190992 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers: Tomorrow, negotiators will resume the seventh round of talks in Washington after a nine-day suspension. Despite the fact that the election of Bill Clinton as the new President of the United States has pushed this round and its resumption tomorrow into the background, all the signs indicate that the power of the peace process's own momentum is sufficient to guarantee the continuity of this process, in accordance with its declared program, through the current session and subsequent ones.

Clearly, in this respect the Arab parties, including our negotiating delegation, should overcome the question of waiting and expectancy until 30 January when Clinton officially takes up his post in the White House. The coming two-and-a-half-month period, the remainder of the term of office of President George Bush's administration, is necessarily an important one. It must thus be exploited in accordance with a unified and clear Arab position, committed in particular to an overall final political settlement. Inasmuch as such an Arab stance is presented during this period, the new U.S. Administration under President Clinton will in turn find a solid position with which to deal, and will define its practices according to the nature of such a position. In contrast, if this position fails to formulate cohesive and strong data, the Clinton administration will not find any solid Arab weight before it. In light of this situation, the PLO has sent delegations to Damascus and Amman to achieve the highest degree of Syrian-Jordanian-Palestinian coordination on the eve of the start of the new session of the seventh round.

While there are signs that the change in the U.S. Administration will necessarily lead to a change, at least in the style of sponsorship of the peace process, this change should, as far as we as Arabs and Palestinians are concerned, lead to a positive change in a unified position taken by us and inspired by the new situation, in the interests of Arab rights, chief among which are our national Palestinian rights.

Clinton Urged on Resolutions

TA0611161592 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Nov 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Clinton to the Test!"]

[Text] In the first statement after winning the post of U.S. president for the next four years, Bill Clinton affirmed the continuity of the basic guidelines of U.S. foreign policy. He noted that although the U.S. Administration changes, basic U.S. interests do not change.

In light of this statement, the outlines of the coming stage under the leadership of the new president are becoming clear. Clinton's promise to the U.S. voters that he will focus himself more on domestic concerns than on foreign issues was one of the greatest factors that contributed to wiping out Bush's dream of occupying the White House once again. Bush spent too much time on adventures outside the United States while the economic crises inside the United States deepened and deteriorated. At the same time the jobless rate increased considerably among the American people, who realized that there was no longer any justification to waste money on military matters following the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc countries.

If the new U.S. president deals with international events and issues on the basis of interests, we believe that the U.S. interest lies in establishing a lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and extinguishing the flame in this part of the world, which is threatening international security and peace.

We also believe that it is not in the interest of the U.S. Administration to remain biased toward Israel and to continue encouraging it not to respond to international resolutions. Such practices harm the reputation of the United States as a superpower that today is controlling the destiny of the new global order alone.

It is hoped that the U.S. Administration will actually adhere to the American people's interest and stop playing the role of a blind policeman who occupies other countries, terrorizes their people, and places them under an air, land, and naval blockade.

Respect for international resolutions, principles, and laws and implementing those resolutions without favoritism or prejudice should be the top priority of the next U.S. Administration if it is really interested in restoring its credibility among the world's nations. This credibility was lost by President Bush under the sands of the Arabian Peninsula.

More Pressure Feared

TA0611144792 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 5 Nov 92 pp 1, 11

[Text] There is concern and fear among Palestinians in the occupied territories that after Clinton's victory the peace process will be temporarily frozen.

Personalities in the occupied territories believe that Clinton's victory does not represent a change in U.S. policy toward the Palestinian problem, but they noted that Bill Clinton's entrance into the White House will cause a temporary suspension of the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

The Palestinian figures believe that the change of the U.S. Administration will add nothing new to U.S.-Arab relations. U.S. foreign policy normally does not change with the change of presidents, but the arrival of the new administration is arousing fear among Palestinians that they would be placed under more U.S. pressure.

After noting that the previous U.S. Administration was a strong ally of Israel, the personalities said that in light of the current fragmented Arab state, the new U.S. Administration will consolidate its alliance with Israel. They stressed that any wagering on U.S. and Israeli shifts toward the Palestinian problem is a lost bet.

Palestinian-Jordanian Coordination Asset in Talks

LD0811093492 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, the Palestinian-Jordanian meetings which are expected to be held at the highest levels during the next two days assume special significance at this delicate political stage. These meetings confirm, first and foremost, that the summer cloud which was created by the media hype, especially the Israeli media, over the Jordanian-Israeli agreement on the agenda of the bilateral talks, could under no circumstances harm the firm basis and principles of the distinct Palestinian-Jordanian relationship. This is a relationship built on strong ties of common outlook, aspiration, hopes, mutual respect, and deep historic, geographical, and other ties which the Palestinian and Jordanian leaderships have strived to nourish over the past years.

These meetings also reaffirm the continuation and enhancement of Palestinian-Jordanian coordination in all matters relating to the peace negotiations, in light of the first stage of the seventh round of the negotiations, and in preparation for the second stage which will be resumed next Monday in the post-election atmosphere in the United States and their repercussions on the future of the negotiations progress.

All the various Arab parties taking part in the peace process realized from the first day of the sixth session of the bilateral negotiations, following the Labor Party's coming to power in Israel, that the new Israeli Government's tactic essentially rests on trying to fragment the negotiations fronts and reach partial or separate settlements. They unanimously rejected this approach in consecutive Arab coordination meetings. It would be unthinkable, therefore, that such attempts would succeed in destroying the distinct Palestinian-Jordanian relationship, or that anyone in the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation would accept even the mere entertainment of such approaches. Therefore, Israel's attempts to insinuate the possibility of reviving this or that alternative at the expense of the solidarity of the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship would be nothing more than betting on a mirage.

The Palestinian and the Jordanian sides in the joint delegation have clearly defined the topics for negotiation with Israel in both the Jordanian-Israeli and the Palestinian-Israeli talks and they have also clearly decided to totally reject any partial or separate settlements. Therefore, differences of interpretation or understanding of the outlook of one side toward the development of the negotiations conducted by the other with Israel would never undermine the foundations and the firm principles agreed on between the Palestinians and the Jordanians for both the bilateral talks and the multilateral talks, especially since the negotiations in both cases are subject to ongoing joint evaluation for the purpose of continuous coordination between them and between them and the other Arab parties in the negotiations.

We believe that the attempts to suggest that the current Palestinian-Jordanian meetings indicate fundamental differences between the two sides regarding agreement on the agenda are far removed from reality, despite the fact that the agenda could represent one of the topics to be discussed by the two sides as part of the evaluation, coordination, and consultation already in progress. We also believe that these meetings will necessarily lead to consolidating the Palestinian-Jordanian position in facing up to the requirements of the coming phase, whether when the negotiations resume next Monday or over the negotiation rounds that will follow.

Qaddumi To Meet PFLP-GC Leader in Damascus

NC0811210292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] For the first time in many years, PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi met in Damascus today with Talal Naji, assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], which opposes the peace negotiations with Israel.

It has been learned from a Palestinian source that Qaddumi will meet tomorrow with Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Damascus-based PFLP-GC.

Faysal al-Husayni on Jordan, PLO Coordination

JN0811121992 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Nov 92 p 20

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpt] Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian Steering Committee, has emphasized the importance of coordination between Jordan and the Palestinians to explore the new state of affairs that has emerged in the wake of the U.S. elections.

In a statement to AL-RA'Y, Faysal al-Husayni, who arrived in Amman on 6 November, described the Jordanian-Palestinian talks as good, and that there is an identity of viewpoints on many points.

Al-Husayni added that the Jordanian and Palestinian sides seek to have the Bush administration offer some additional things during the period that precedes the transfer of power to the new U.S. President Clinton.

Al-Husayni said: We also seek to develop the new U.S. administration's policy toward the peace process under Clinton, especially since the new president's statements affirm the need to give the peace process a push forward, and we hope to see this materialize. He described the two high-level meetings this month between the Palestinians and the Jordanians as necessary meetings. Such meetings are always held at every important stage of the negotations, particularly that there is a new developmeent in the United States, the sponsor of the peace conference. [passage omitted]

OPEC Affairs

October Production Increase Detailed

NC0911123792 Paris AFP in English 1125 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Nicosia, Nov 9 (AFP)—OPEC production increased by 325,000 barrels per day (b/d) in October compared to the previous month to reach a daily average of 25.25 million barrels, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday.

The increase was mainly due to a rise in production in Kuwait, Iran, Nigeria and Qatar which produced 125,000 b/d, 80,000 b/d, 50,000 b/d and 30,000 b/d respectively, the specialist weekly said.

MEES also reported that the price of Brent crude dropped from around 20.70 dollars per barrel in the second week of October to less than 19 dollars per barrel in the first week of November before recovering to about 19.30-19.40 dollars at the end of last week.

MEES linked the fluctuations to "some real, some psychological and some purely speculative" factors, including media reports of an OPEC production rise in October and Algeria's call for specific production ceilings.

Another specialist review, Petrostrategies, estimated the October production of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries at 25.3 mbd while the U.S.-based Cambridge Energy Research Associates had predicted an average of 25.1 mbd.

Algeria

FIS Activists Arrested; Police Officer Shot Dead

LD0811203292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] The national gendarmerie has announced that it has succeeded in breaking up an armed network which was active in the center of the city of Bouira and has arrested 23 people. In another development the national gendarmerie of Bourmerdes province has arrested three people involved in the assassination of three gendarmes who were killed recently near Dellys.

The security service of Sidi Bel Abbes arrested a person who had a grenade and a military uniform in his possession. New arrests were also made following a hold-up at the Algerian Bank for Regional Development in Annaba. The arrested persons are known by the police to be activists of the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. The total number of arrests in this case has now reached three. Two other persons were killed by the police while one more is still being hunted.

The latest information regarding public order is that a police inspector was assassinated in Laghouat yesterday evening. He was hit on his way home by several bullets fired by unidentified people who succeeded in escaping. The victim, a married man, was 30 years old.

Gendarmerie Arrests 55 in Constantine, Seizes Arms

LD0811205392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] More points have been scored in the anti-terrorist struggle, with a vast operation carried out in Constantine by the national gendarmerie. Fifty-five terrorists have been arrested. Among these were eight people who had given up terrorism, and who will benefit thus from the provisions for release provided for by the law on anti-terrorism. They were freed immediately.

Let us now look at the details of this operation with a national gendarmerie official.

[Begin unidentified official recording] The following weapons and explosives were seized: eleven automatic pistols with ammunition; one MAT-49 submachine gun with six chargers; a home-made bomb weighing about two kg; a shotgun with ammunition; two pickaxes and two daggers; automatic equipment for printing and publication; military uniforms; and various documents and leaflets as well as an amount of money in dinars and foreign currency.

The crimes attributed to them are: harming the internal security of the state; committing terrorist and subversive acts; sabotaging means of telecommunications, transport, and public and private property; possessing, carrying, and importing weapons; stealing, selling, and trading in military weapons, ammunition, and explosives; and participating in an organization aiming at carrying out acts of violence and terrorism. [end recording]

Human Rights Group on Regime's 'Routine' Torture

NC0411193292 Paris AFP in English 1509 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Algiers, Nov 4 (AFP)—Torture has "reappeared" in Algeria, the Algerian Human Rights Defence League (LADDH) stated Wednesday, calling on authorities to "stamp out this plague."

Security forces had applied multiple and varied forms of torture to detainees and the practice had become routine, according to "certified and trustworthy testimony," the league said in its statement.

One of Algeria's two recognised human rights bodies, it said that the practice "we had hoped eradicated since (mass riots) in October 1988 has reappeared."

League chairman Ali-Yahia Abdennour told AFP that he wanted authorities to allow "a neutral commission of enquiry" to go on Saturday to the Serkadji prison in central Algiers, interview detainees and give a press conference on its findings in the afternoon.

The LADHH is not "pointing out individual excesses, but a generalised administrative practice," he said. "We've got a file strong as concrete."

The Interior Ministry had Tuesday dismissed similar declarations from the league, arguing that it should have "alerted the authorities at once."

More than 530 people, mainly members of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), have been arrested since the government on September 30 introduced new measures to fight "terrorism and subversion."

The FIS was banned in March, its top leaders placed behind bars, after the army stepped in three months earlier to prevent the party winning Algeria's first free general elections since independence. Subsequent unrest has claimed the lives of more than 200 members of the security forces, while authorities rounded up some 9,000 people and sent them to prison camps deep in the Sahara desert.

About 1,600 are still there. In its statement Wednesday, the FIS said it "welcomed with satisfaction" the closure of some camps, but called for a total end to "deportation and administrative detention."

Egypt

Impact of Clinton Election Victory Viewed

Mubarak, Ministers on U.S. Policy

NC0811122292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak met at the Presidential Office today with Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi, Economy Minister Yusri Mustafa, and Finance Minister Muhammad al-Razzaz.

The prime minister said after the meeting that the discussions dealt with a number of issues, including the continuation of economic reforms especially in the budget sector. Another important topic of discussion, he added, was the current trade conflict in the world, specifically between Europe and the United States and the measures the United States threatened to take if Western Europe continued to implement certain trade policies.

With or without these measures, the prime minister said, we exist in the world market and must expect any measures to affect us, positively or negatively. This subject was discussed with President Mubarak, he said.

He added that President Mubarak asked for a comprehensive report on this subject. The report will be submitted in the next few days.

Asked whether the results of the U.S. elections will affect Egypt's economic policy, Dr. Sidqi said: This was not discussed with the president today, but generally, the policy that the U.S. president-elect will pursue may have some effects, positive or negative.

He added: As Mubarak announced the day before yesterday, we are watching the situation. We still do not know any full, distinct features of the policy U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton will pursue.

The prime minister explained that Egypt deals primarily with the policies of states and governments. Asked if there is anything new in Egypt's agreements with the IMF, he said there will be something new in the next few days, God willing.

Cabinet Briefed on Clinton Win

NC0711190892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Excerpt] In today's meeting, presided over by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, the cabinet reviewed a report submitted by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on the international community's reactions to the earthquake that hit Egypt on 12 October. He reviewed the stands of foreign countries and the technical and financial aid extended by foreign and brotherly Arab countries.

These remarks came in a statement by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, who added that the foreign minister reviewed in his report the international attitude that what happened to the Islamic and Coptic antiquities in Egypt affected the world's cultural and human heritage. The foreign minister noted that the international technical cooperation with Egypt to save these antiquities already has started.

Musa noted the Egyptian diplomatic efforts to explain the facts regarding extremist attempts to harm the national economy and the repercussions from the extremist attack on some British tourists. He noted the Egyptian diplomatic missions' role to explain the facts about this issue; most importantly, the Egyptian Government's firm commitment to strike at all forms of terrorism and extremism as well as the Egyptian security agencies' measures to confront these individual attempts. In this respect, Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of state for cabinet affairs and administrative development, referred to a report by the secretary general of the Civil Aviation Organization in Montreal, in which he stressed that the installations and measures adopted at Egyptian airports are high quality and ensure the safety and security of travelers and tourists.

In his report, the foreign minister noted the results of the U.S. presidential elections, which Democrat Bill Clinton won, and the impact of this victory on international and regional issues, particularly the Middle East issue and the peace process. The foreign minister emphasized the steady momentum in the peace process, which now has acquired a self-sustained momentum from the parties participating in the talks. He noted that Egypt will move actively with the United States and all the parties sponsoring and participating in the peace process. [passage omitted]

[Reporting on the cabinet meeting, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1700 GMT on 7 November adds: "In its meeting today, the cabinet warned against attempts by a few people to take advantage of the democratic climate to incite division, agitation, and violations of democratic practices, and to invoke slogans that are far from the truth. In this respect, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that the cabinet has stressed that the law will deter these people, who have proven their failure in all national issues; that terrorizing and provoking the citizens will not be permitted; and that the law will be firmly and strictly applied in all cases related to the security of the homeland and the future of its people. The information minister added that the cabinet agreed to allocate 20 million pounds to supply the police force with four helicopters to protect tourist sites."]

Mubarak on Clinton, Local Elections

NC0611190092 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Nov 92

["Text" of an interview with Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak by MAYU Chief Editor Samir Rajab in Cairo on 6 November; read by announcer]

[Text] I asked President Mubarak: Mr. President, do you believe that the good performance of the National Democratic Party [NDP] and its government in the wake of the catastrophic erthquake was behind the sweeping victory it has attained?

The president answered: Of course. The two sides performed their duties in the best possible manner. Despite that, the government was accused of being too slow and lazy. However, reality dictates that things could not have been done any faster. I want to mention a specific event. U.S. President George Bush contacted me a few days after the catastrophe and said: You have done a glorious deed. How could you have provided housing for all those people who suffered from the earthquake? We have learned that it is not easy to arrange housing for so many people in such a short period of time. The United States has a lot of experience in this regard, such as Hurricane Gloria, when the government asked the victims to use their own judgment and find alternative housing for themselves. We in Egypt quickly moved the families that suffered from the earthquake to apartments that were ready to be lived in. We then set up camps and arranged food and water for thousands. On the other hand, we immediately began connecting services to a number of housing units that did not have them. All this has cost us a great deal of money. We are doing all this in addition to building the schools, or repairing them, or restoring the archaeological sites, which need huge amounts of money. The total amount of aid we have received so far does not even exceed $170 million.

I asked the president: As regards the school buildings, will any measures be taken against the contractors and engineers who did not do their job properly when building the schools? The weak construction led to their collapse.

The president answered decisively: It must be made clear that the school buildings that collapsed were built a long time ago. The same thing applies to the houses and buildings that collapsed. It has become clear that these buildings were built in the thirties and forties. Decisions were made periodically that the buildings should be demolished, but the residents categorically refused to vacate. The Heliopolis building is a special case, and the authorities are investigating it.

Allow me, Mr. President, to tell you that your speedy return from Beijing had a calming effect on many. This of course demonstrated how the earthquake was to be dealt with.

President Husni Mubarak responded with the humble and humanitarian look on his face: This is only natural. We in Egypt are like members of a family. The members of this family were worried when they experienced a catastrophe while the head of the family was away. When he showed up, they felt at ease and comfortable, just like a small family when one of its sons is taken ill and the father is abroad. What happens in a case like that? The family will feel tense and uncomfortable until the father returns. Everyone will then feel safe because they are confident of his ability to take action to cure the sick child.

Mr. President, let us go back to the elections. You issued a republican decree postponing for one week the elections in certain governorates. This decision was received with acceptance and satisfaction by the voters. Despite this, certain people interpreted the decision incorrectly. What is your view?

The president answered: Listen, as long as there is a judicial verdict, it must be respected and implemented. I will never deviate from this principle. Respect for the judiciary and law is a must and essential. When I issued the decree postponing the elections, I sought the interests of all parties. To me, there is no difference between this or that party. Ballots had not reached a number of governorates until 1500 or 1600 in the afternoon. Could the election process have taken place? Anyway, there is a week-long opportunity; let the rival parties campaign.

Mr. President, what would you advise the parties, including the NDP, on the upcoming stage?

The president answered: I advise them all to put Egypt first and to set limits for criticism so as not to conflict with public interests. If certain people want to imitate other countries, I tell them that those countries have their own laws that may not suit us. We are an Islamic country, praise be to God, and, consequently are required to be the first to observe the teachings of the true religion. Those who raise the slogan of Islam must abide in their behavior and manners by Islam's teachings so that they will indeed be true Muslims. If you are a true Muslim and advocate Islam, you are dutybound not to commit acts that run counter to its teachings because you will offend Islam.

Mr. President, a new U.S. President has been elected, do you expect any change in Washington's ties with Cairo?

President Mubarak answered: We deal with the United States as a state and institutions. U.S. policy does not change overnight. Bush was a true friend, but we will get to know Clinton and deal with him. We are realistic and frank. We speak the truth. God willing, things will proceed as we wish.

Mr. President, do you intend to make a foreign trip shortly?

President Mubarak answered: Yes, God willing, I will travel to France on 19 November to meet with President Mitterrand. I will spend one night in Paris and then leave for Dakar to attend the 15th summit of the Third World countries, scheduled to convene 21-23 November.

'More Moderate' U.S. Stand Possible

NC0711082592 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 7 Nov 92

[From the press review]

[Text] Concerning the outcome of the U.S. elections, AL-AHRAM says that Bill Clinton's victory came as no surprise. Most observers expected Clinton to win and only differed on the size of the win. President Bush, for all his personal weight and presidential record, was history for American voters.

AL-AHRAM adds: It is probably too early to judge Clinton and his Democratic administration on the basis of his campaign statements, particularly that concerning the recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's unified capital. Campaign promises are not necessarily binding on the candidate once he becomes president of all Americans and defender of their interests. During an economic recession, national interest is the deciding factor driving any political move. Therefore, it is not unlikely that Clinton will take a more moderate stand on Middle East issues if Arabs play their cards right.

The paper calls on Arabs to hold intensive consultations with the new administration and Congress. AL-AHRAM concludes by saying that it will probably be some time before the actual policy of the new Democratic administration takes shape. The Arabs should use this time well and adjust their policies to ensure that they obtain their rights.

Basyuni on Peace Process

NC0711112092 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Telephone interview with Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Good morning, Mr. Ambassador.

[Basyuni] Good morning.

[Abu-al-Majd] How did the Israeli Government receive Bill Clinton's victory, his statements on U.S. foreign policy, and the possible impact on the Arab-Israeli peace process?

[Basyuni] The Israeli Government was very reserved before the U.S. elections. It didn't express support for any of the presidential candidates. After Clinton's victory, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin sent a congratulatory cable to Clinton and a cable of thanks to President Bush for his efforts during his term, especially concerning the peace process. The expectation here is that the peace process will continue, but will need some time pending the formation of a new U.S. Administration and the appointment of officials in charge of this process.

However, some Israeli leaders, especially from the Likud bloc, such as Yitzhaq Shamir, did not hide their happiness over Bush's fall and Clinton's victory. As you know, Yitzhaq Shamir believed President Bush was making great efforts and exerting pressure to make Israel withdraw to the pre-1967 border. Shamir, therefore, did not conceal his happiness over Bush's fall and he expressed satisfaction with Clinton's assumption of power.

[Abu-al-Majd] Mr. Ambassador, what exactly does the Israeli Government want from the new U.S. President, knowing that the Jewish vote in the United States is generally bent a little toward the Democratic candidate, and now Bill Clinton?

[Basyuni] The Jewish community in the United States, in fact, is largely, not slightly, bent toward the Democrats. More than 80 percent of U.S. Jews support Clinton. The current Israeli Government, as I said, sincerely wishes to advance the peace process and bring about peace. It is also true that there are differences in views, and that the gap is still big between us as Arabs and Palestinians and Israel over a solution to the problem. But the fact is that Rabin's government is willing to reach a settlement and achieve peace. This government, therefore, hopes the new U.S. Administration will continue to push the peace process ahead, and it also hopes that U.S. assistance to Israel will remain unchanged. These are the two main demands by the current Israeli Government.

[Abu-al-Majd] Mr. Ambassador, how does the Israeli Government perceive the peace process and the U.S. commitment to continuing it? Is the Israeli concept limited to a partial withdrawal and a degree of administrative self-rule [al-hukm al- idari] for the Palestinian people, or is Israel truly dedicated to a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the region?

[Basyuni] Actually the three major factors needed to end the Arab-Israeli conflict once and for all are currently on the negotiating table. These factors are land, peace, and security. Both Israel and the Arabs have agreed to address these three factors, but there is still a considerable disparity in their interpretation of them. When we, the Arabs, speak about land we are speaking about the land, not just land. When Israel speaks, it refers to territorial concessions and to land, not the land.

When we speak about peace, Israel asks us: What kind of peace do you want? A comprehensive peace, in the sense of full recognition and the establishment of diplomatic, economic, and cultural relations, or another kind of peace?

Also, when we speak about security arrangements, we refer to security arrangements for everyone.

I am optimistic because the three major elements of a settlement are out in the open. The remaining differences have to do with the interpretation of these elements.

[Abu-al-Majd] Do you think that Israel hinges its success in the peace process on Clinton's administration? During the campaign, Clinton promised to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Does Israel place great hope on statements that were made as part of the campaign

process, or does it see them as campaign-related? Clinton may change his position since winning the presidency.

[Basyuni] Actually, Israel's focus is on direct and bilateral negotiations. Israel believes that peace cannot be achieved unless an agreement acceptable to both sides is reached. The United States is undoubtedly a factor in achieving a settlement, but the major forces or sides will have the final word in this regard. When we speak about peace, we speak about just peace. Peace has to be just in order to be durable. Imposing borders is not at all conducive to just peace. Therefore, the United States has a role in helping the various sides achieve peace, justice, and security for all.

[Abu-al-Majd] Will the Clinton administration maintain the same support to the peace process that the Bush administration used to give, or do you believe that things will be different?

[Basyuni] As a matter of fact, the signals that the United States has given to Israel so far indicate that Clinton will maintain U.S. support for the peace process. Let us wait and remain optimistic until, God willing, our goals are achieved.

[Abu-al-Majd] Thank you, Mr. Ambassador.

[Basyuni] You are welcome.

Iraqi Reaction Criticized

NC0611171792 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Ahmad al-Razzaz commentary: "Baghdad Ruler's Cheap Exploitation of U.S. Election"]

[Text] When the British Government led by Margaret Thatcher fell during Iraq's military occupation of Kuwait, the Baghdad ruler tried to exploit this fall to consolidate his position inside Iraq, claiming personal credit for the change in Britain. The truth, however, is far from the Baghdad ruler's allegations, because the changes in Britain related to the democratic process in force there and in other European countries. Since the Iraqi people know this, the Baghdad ruler's exploitation of such situations shows the cheap method used by this ruler to deceive his own people, taking advantage of his misleading media and other paid organs, which helped him to cover up his aggressive conspiracy against Kuwait and its people in August 1990.

With sheer recklessness and political naivete, the Baghdad ruler also tried to exploit the historic changes that led to the collapse and disintegration of the Soviet Union, claiming that the fall of Gorbachev and his regime resulted from anti-Iraq stands during the occupation of Kuwait. This allegation caused ridicule, especially since events inside the former Soviet Union were one of the greatest surprises in our contemporary history, part of world change, and no world or regional power had anything to do with what happened. This is because the disintegration of the Soviet Union came from within and as a result of political and economic circumstances.

Because the Baghdad ruler relies on his lies and fabrications in his attempt to deceive and mislead his people, he tried to exploit the U.S. presidential elections, claiming that democratic candidate Bill Clinton's victory over President Bush is a victory for him, personally, since the confrontation was with Bush, not Clinton. But the truth is that even before the results were decided, the American President-elect was one of the staunchest enemies of dictatorships in the world. He sharply criticized President Bush for cooperating with the Baghdad ruler during the Iran-Iraq war before the Iraqi military crime against Kuwait.

What the misleading Iraqi trumpets are blowing about the result of the U.S. election, Bush's failure, and the Baghdad ruler's attempts to mislead the Iraqi people exemplifies the cheap practices pursued by this regime, which knows the truth very well—namely that American President-elect Bill Clinton has more hardline stands against the head of the Iraqi regime personally, judging by Clinton's own remarks that he refuses to deal with dictatorial regimes that deny their peoples the right to democracy, and that he places the Iraqi regime represented by Saddam Husayn on top of the world's list of despotic regimes that use oppression and tyranny against people—so much so that the northern and southern regions of Iraq are still living under the protection of international law. Without this protection, the Iraqi opposition factions would have been unable to hold their national conference inside Iraq, declare a new collective leadership, or set up alternative structures to lead Iraq after the toppling of the autocratic regime in Baghdad.

If Saddam Husayn is trying to get out of the impasse he is facing following the Iraqi opposition conference, by taking credit for the U.S. election result, all his cards are in the open, because his people, like all other peoples, know that the new U.S. President, Bill Clinton, has accused Bush of following a lenient policy toward the Iraqi regime. He blamed him for failing to deal this regime a blow soon enough, a blow that could frustrate its military aggression against Kuwait. This whetted the appetite of the Baghdad ruler and increased his intransigence and defiance of international law.

The cheap approach followed by Iraq's tyrant, taking advantage of such occasions to mislead his own people, is outdated, because the Iraqi people have fully exposed all the deception cards, organized their ranks, and formed a strong opposition front grouping all the political and religious tendencies in Iraq at the historic conference in Salah al-Din. The ruler of Baghdad is fast approaching the time to face his own people, who will make him answer for his crimes and end a despotic regime that long ruled the Iraqi people with an iron fist.

No Change Seen in U.S. Policy

NC0711090692 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 5 Nov 92 p 8

["Closeup" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "Bush Went and Clinton Came"]

[Text] There is of course no comparison between the U.S. elections and the local council elections in Egypt in the past few days, apart from the fact that by coincidence they both took place on the same day.

There is also no comparison between the effects of the U.S. elections on us and the effects of the local council elections, which the citizen does not feel at all in his daily life. If we leave aside the local council elections in Egypt, as there is no need to make meaningless comparisons, the results of the U.S. presidential elections remain a solid and tangible reality, manifesting a change that has taken place in the basis and mood of U.S. policy. We must, therefore, study its effects and implications on us.

The results have shown that Bill Clinton will be the new boss in the White House. This means that a change will take place in U.S. domestic and foreign policies, in line with the problems facing American society.

As for us in the Arab world, the change in the U.S. presidency must not worry us too much. Bush has gone, and Clinton has come. Clinton might not have the same degree of experience and shrewdness that distinguished Bush in dealing with foreign affairs, but the Arabs will not witness anything worse under the Clinton administration than what they lost during the Reagan and Bush administrations, the concessions they made, and the price they paid materially and politically, unless they continue to destroy their houses with their own hands.

From the standpoint of the West, what is being said in favor of Bush is that he succeeded in bringing the Arabs and Israelis face to face at the negotiating table. But from the Arab standpoint, he succeeded in forcing them to negotiate with the Israelis from a weak position from which there is no escape, and helped Israel to achieve all its goals in expanding its population and military power in a deal in which the Arabs gave everything in return for nothing.

There is not the slightest difference between Bush's policies in the Middle East and Clinton's declared policies, apart from what was contained in his electoral platform on the recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel—an electoral promise that Clinton will not be able to fulfill unless the Arabs give up their legal and international right to Jerusalem for nothing.

It is taken for granted that most policies pursued by the Republican administrations of Reagan and Bush, particularly concerning U.S.-Egyptian bilateral relations, continued in the same direction begun by President Carter. On the other hand, the change in the White House may help accomplish Arab reconciliation, even on a minimum scale. The unbalanced U.S. policy toward Iraq, and the excessive attention to a single problem—the Kurdish problem—has complicated the situation and caused new problems. The idea of toppling Saddam has become almost a sickness for President Bush, with many priorities being pushed down the scale, thus leading to Iraq's actual division.

The important thing is that the change has taken place. The Arab world must deal with the new American administration, and this will be the problem of the Arab world.

Impact on Peace Talks Viewed

NC0811081392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH comment today on the Arab-Israeli peace talks, which will resume in Washington tomorrow after having been suspended for the U.S. presidential elections.

AL-AHRAM says there are still hopes that the next round of talks will see some significant results. [passage omitted]

AL-JUMHURIYAH discusses the impact of Clinton's victory in the U.S. presidential elections on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the current peace talks in Washington.

Reviewing Clinton's statements and pledges concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict during his election campaign, the paper maintains that they fully serve Israel's interests and could, if put into practice, change many things and greatly affect the entire peace process.

The paper asks whether fulfilling these pledges would uphold U.S. interests in the Arab world, especially as many U.S. circles are increasingly realizing that Israel is no longer a strategic treasure for America; indeed, it is almost turning into a strategic burden.

Apart from wondering and speculating, the paper says, politics knows no hopes or dreams. It is essentially based on facts, which will become crystal clear when Clinton enters the White House on 20 January. AL-JUMHURIYAH concludes: Until that date, the question on the Arab scene will remain: What shall we do to make the United States, during the term of the new president, keep its promises to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict?

Musa Returns, Comments on Peace Process

NC0711071592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2334 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo from Paris tonight at the end of official visits to Spain and France that lasted six days.

During the visits, Musa conveyed messages from President Husni Mubarak to Spanish King Juan Carlos and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and French President Francois Mitterrand. He also held talks with a number of officials from both countries on bilateral relations and international issues of mutual concern.

While in Spain, Musa participated in the joint Egyptian [words indistinct]

He said in a statement he does not believe that there will be a change in the U.S. stand on the Middle East peace process. He added: I imagine the peace process will resume and continue and there is a need for fresh impetus to advance the process. With Arab, European, Egyptian, and U.S. support, we can serve the peace process in the coming stages.

He noted that the Egyptian-French and Egyptian-Spanish talks focused on Middle East developments, the peace process, establishing security in the Mediterranean, and bilateral relations.

Musa is scheduled to forward a comprehensive report to President Husni Mubarak on the outcome of his talks and meetings in Spain and France.

No Change in U.S. Policy Seen

NC0811160692 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that he submitted a report today to President Husni Mubarak on the outcome of his talks in Paris and Madrid and on his meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand, senior French officials, and on his meeting with the King of Spain and the Spanish prime minister.

Commenting on the new round of peace talks due to begin in Washington, Musa pointed out that Egypt believes that the resumption of talks is necessary and indicative of the insistence by the parties concerned to reach peace within the framework of the agreed principles. He said Egypt expects this round of talks to achieve progress on reaching a comprehensive settlement. He noted that it should be reasoned that the negotiations process will resume under new conditions resulting from the U.S. elections outcome. He stressed that the change in the U.S. Administration will not lead to a change in the U.S. position on the peace process.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1518 GMT on 8 November adds: "Commenting on the resumption of the Arab-Israeli negotiations due to begin in Washington tomorrow, Musa said that what is required is a comprehensive solution, not separate solutions. He said that agreement was reached on this position during the meeting in Amman among the Arab foreign ministers of the countries concerned with the peace process. He noted that this does not mean refusing progress on any track of the bilateral Arab-Israeli talks. He pointed out that any progress on any track is considered progress in the peace process as a whole. He said that if invited, Egypt will attend any meeting to achieve Arab coordination."]

Musa Comments on Israeli-Jordanian Agenda

NC0611195392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] Beirut, 6 Nov (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that the agenda agreement reached by the Israeli and Jordanian delegations at the seventh round of bilateral peace talks in Washington is a framework that will push the peace process forward.

In a statement to the Radio Israel correspondent in Paris, Musa added this agreement will have positive repercussions on all courses of the negotiations, adding, however, that the agreement is between Israel and Jordan only and that there is no need for a third party's sponsorship.

He said Israel has shown serious intentions during the peace talks. Yitzhaq Rabin government's intentions are different from those of the previous government, he remarked.

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Visit Reported

Received by Mubarak

NC0811130892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a message from Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey during his meeting today with Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Tofik Gasymov, who is currently visiting Cairo.

In a statement after the meeting, the Azerbaijani foreign minister said he had conveyed the condolences of the Azerbaijani president, government, and people over the victims of the earthquake that hit Egypt on 12 October. He said that the talks dealt with the means required to promote relations between the two countries in various domains.

The Azerbaijani foreign minister said: We also discussed Nagorno-Karabakh. I briefed the president on our stand and I listened to Egypt's position on the issue. Gasymov stressed the need to solve this problem through peaceful means. He noted that President Mubarak shares our opinion and he briefed me on Egypt's experiment with Israel in this regard.

In his statement, Gasymov said that the talks also touched on certain issues that might have a negative impact on Azerbaijani society and how to avoid such issues. He said: We are currently moving from a state-controlled economy to a free economy. He added that President Mubarak explained Egypt's experiment in this regard. I voiced our country's readiness to benefit from this experiment, the Azerbaijani foreign minister added.

Gasymov said that he had listened to President Mubarak's advice concerning the construction of a democratic system and the means to avoid chaos so Azerbaijan could proceed toward a sound democratic system, particularly since it is still at the beginning of the road.

The Azerbaijani foreign minister noted that President Mubarak has invited President Abulfaz Elchibey to visit Egypt in January. He said he will discuss the preparations for the visit with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Discusses Regional Issues

LD0811184292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1721 GMT 8 Nov 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Georgiy Shelenkov]

[Text] Cairo, 8 November—Azerbaijan Foreign Minister Tofik Gasymov, who is here on an official visit, was received today by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, to whom he handed a personal message from Azerbaijan President Abulfaz Elchibey.

After the meeting the Azerbaijan foreign minister told local journalists that ways of developing bilateral relations in various fields, as well as a number of other questions, in particular the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh, were discussed during the talks. T. Gasymov spoke of the need for a peaceful settlement of the crisis. This point of view was shared by H. Mubarak, who spoke about his experience of resolving similar problems, citing the Egyptian- Israeli settlement as an example.

The Egyptian president, the Azerbaijani minister continued, also spoke of his country's experience in the sphere of economic reform. This is particularly important for Azerbaijan, which is currently in the stage of transition from a planned to a market economy.

The Egyptian leader invited Azerbaijan President A. Elchibey to visit the Arab Republic of Egypt. During a meeting with Arab League Secretary General Dr Ahmad Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid on the same day, T. Gasymov proposed that Azerbaijan join the Arab League as an observer. According to him, the "bridge of cooperation" will link the Arab countries and the Caucasus. Speaking about Azerbaijani- Egyptian relations, the minister stressed that they recently have been fruitful, particularly in the political, economic, and religious spheres. Prior to the collapse of the Soviet Union, he continued, the trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Egypt was insignificant. However, opportunities have emerged now to catch up in this sphere. In conclusion T. Gasymov told journalists that after touring the Arab Republic of Egypt he will visit Saudi Arabia and in the near future he will pay a visit to "two countries of the Persian Gulf."

Signs Agreements With Musa

NC0811220992 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] At the conclusion of their talks in Cairo today, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Tofik Gasymov signed three agreements in the fields of cultural, information, and consular cooperation. They also signed a memorandum of understanding between the two countries' Foreign Ministries on strengthening cooperation on international and regional issues and on coordinating positions on issues of peace and development within the framework of the United Nations.

Following the signing of the agreements, the Azerbaijani foreign minister said his visit to Cairo has been successful and fruitful and that his talks with President Mubarak and Musa will help promote Azerbaijan's political relations with Egypt. He said the agreements aim at strengthening and developing cooperation between Egypt and Azerbaijan in various fields.

Mauritian Foreign Minister Arrives for Official Visit

NC0911075892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Mauritian Foreign Minister Paul Berenger arrived in Cairo last night for an official four-day visit to Egypt.

In an arrival statement, Berenger said he is bringing a message from the Mauritian leader to President Husni Mubarak on bilateral relations and a similar message from the Mauritian prime minister to Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi.

The official said he will discuss with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa several issues of common interest, the promotion of bilateral ties, and coordination for a conference on human rights of African nations, which the United Nations will organize in Vienna in June.

He was received upon arrival at Cairo Airport by Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador 'Umar Jadd.

Asyut Imam Calls for Jihad to Oust Government

NC0611203492 Paris AFP in English 1923 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Asyut, Egypt, Nov 6 (AFP) - An Islamic state in Egypt can be achieved through holy war, a Muslim fundamentalist cleric told Friday worshippers in this southern city. The religious leader addressed his call for jihad, or holy war, to about a thousand faithful, notably Asyut University students, at the Al-Rahmah mosque here. The imam said a Muslim state and the Caliphat (the former Muslim spiritual and temporal power) were the only answers to social injustice and poverty.

Surrounding the mosque where the cleric called for an armed struggle against the central government, banners

proclaimed that an Islamic state could be achieved "at gunpoint not through the ballot box." Others referred to the assassination of President Anwar al-Sadat and his killer, an army officer who gunned him down during a military parade on October 6, 1981. "We'll create the Islamic state in the al-Islambuli [one of al-Sadat's assassins] fashion," one said. Another banner implicitly proffered a death threat to police officials, saying: "Our bodies are marked by deep wounds that only the blood of butchers can heal."

The exhortations by the leader of the fundamentalist al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah group [Islamic Group] in Asyut—a Muslim stronghold and site of some of the worst anti-government and inter-communal violence—came four days after Islamic fundamentalists won seats on local councils in municipal elections.

The Muslim groups said there had been fraud by the ruling National Democratic Party which swept the polls. The fundamentalists, led by the officially banned Muslim Brotherhood which was running on a Labor Party list, took 75 wards from a total of 2,778 in Tuesday's vote.

Police deployed in about 30 vehicles watched the mosque crowd from a distance but did not interfere. But they closed down a al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah mosque in Manfalut, 30 kilometers (186 miles) from Asyut, police sources said.

The movement is entrenched in Asyut, but its presence is felt throughout the country and police have charged it with several attacks against security forces, which the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah has also claimed. [passage omitted]

Christians Arrested for Murdering Coptic Doctor

NC0611174992 Paris AFP in English 1617 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, Oct 6 (AFP) - Two Coptic Christians have been detained as suspects in the murder of a Coptic doctor in the troubled Asyut province of southern Egypt, security sources said Friday.

Samir Rushdi Tifal, 48, was killed late Wednesday when two unidentified assailants burst into his offices in the village of Sahil-Salim, after shooting and wounding a Muslim employee.

Security sources said two Copts were picked up Thursday on suspicion of killing the doctor because of a personal dispute, after initial reports that the murder could have been the work of Muslim fundamentalist extremists.

More than a third of the 60 people killed in a wave of unrest stirred by Muslim extremists in southern Egypt since March have been Copts, according to an AFP count.

Security Forces Kill Suspected Islamic Activist

NC0911080392 Paris AFP in English 2355 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, Nov 9 (AFP) - Egyptian security forces in northern Cairo on Sunday shot dead a man suspected of having taken part in a hold-up for an Islamic fundamentalist group, police said here. They said the man died in a firefight after police surrounded a house he was hiding in in the Medinat al-Salam neighbourhood of the city. Two alleged accomplices of the dead man were arrested.

The victim, named as 'Atif al-Kafrawi, was suspected of having taken part in the robbery of a jewellery store in a town north of the capital on October 27. The owner of the store, a Coptic Christian, and one of his employees was killed in the hold-up.

The robbers got away with gold estimated to be worth 600,000 dollars.

Police said al-Kafrawi was a veteran of the war waged by Muslim groups against Soviet troops in Afghanistan in the 1980's.

Libya

Source Denies Arms Supplied to Liberian Faction

LD0611171992 Tripoli JANA in English 1426 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] Tripoli, al-Harth [November] 6, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—A well-informed source in the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has refuted the report circulated by the ASSOCIATED PRESS Agency on 6/11/92 concerning Libya's purported supplying of arms to one of [words indistinct] factions in Liberia.

The source said that Libya had always put forward a peaceful solution to this bloody conflict and along the same lines had encouraged all initiatives towards this end, including those efforts underway by the West Africa Economic Organisation.

This can be seen when the Great Jamahariyah received a delegation headed by the interim president of the Liberian Government, Amos Swire and then the agreement made with him to renew diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Libya also encourages all those peaceful and humanitarian initiatives which the former American President Jimmy Carter undertook. Libya also wants an end to this bloody conflict which claimed the lives of thousands of Liberians.

The source also denounced those quarters which are attempting to besmirch the Great Jamahariyah's name in this sectarian war which it has no involvement in whatsoever.

The source indicated that on 3/11/92 the interim Liberian Government had expressed its' wish to the Great Jamahariyah to send a delegation to explain the latest developments in his country.

The president had also asked Libya to do all within its' capicity towards this end and consequently this delegation was warmly welcomed.

The source indicated that fortunately the official spokesperson for the American Department of State, Richard Boucher had not besmirched the Great Jamahariyah's name on this subject in his latest statement on the situation in Liberia.

The source questioned "how is it possible for Libya to have transported weapons to this country by air when an air embargo is in effect, as a result of the unjust Security Council Resolution 748, particularly when these weapons, according to the available inofrmation, had arrived on board a plane which landed in Roberts airport inside Liberian territory. So, where is this plane supposed to have taken off from? Or how did it arrive there and when? The source of these weapons?

The source ended by saying that the Great Jamahariyah does not practice a policy of interference in the internal affairs of other countries nor is it involved in any way in the civil wars currently underway in Africa.

Indeed, the Great Jamahariyah has always called for, the latest time being before the General Assembly of the United Nations, bringing an end to these wars through negotiation between the warring sides and through dialogue, far removed from the use of force and weapons.

Kuwait

Bush, Staff Invited To Attend National Day

LD0711135192 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Kuwait, 7 Nov (KUNA)—The [Kuwaiti] newspaper AL-FAJR AL-JADID today reported that a special invitation is being prepared at the highest levels for U.S. President George Bush and his staff to visit Kuwait to attend the celebrations marking the country's glorious national day and the anniversary of Liberation Day on 26 February 1993.

In today's issue, the paper says that the Kuwaiti Government's invitation is an expression of loyalty to the man and his staff and is aimed at extending the thanks of the government and the people for their unforgettable efforts to liberate Kuwait from the tyrannical Iraqi aggression.

The paper points out that many ceremonies will be held in honor of the U.S. President, who will by then have disengaged himself from many ties after the preoccupations of the presidency and the political and security sensitivities which have prevented him from visiting Kuwait. The paper adds that a visit by Bush is "Kuwait's wish which has been expressed by both the government and the people on more than one occasion."

The paper further says that Bush will by then have handed over power to his successor, President-Elect Bill Clinton, on 20 January 1993.

AL-FAJR AL-JADID adds that Kuwait will try to obtain the presence of as many members of Bush's Administration as possible, foremost among them former Secretary of State James Baker, Vice President Dan Quayle, Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, Chief of the General Staff General Colin Powell, and General Norman Schwartzkoff, commander of the Allied Forces.

The paper also says that George Bush's visit to Kuwait is likely to be within the framework of a Middle East tour which would take him to a number of capitals in the region.

It is worth mentioning that the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, has already extended an official invitation to President George Bush to visit Kuwait. The invitation was conveyed at the first meeting between the two leaders during the tyrannical occupation and it was confirmed at their second meeting in Saudi Arabia and their third meeting in Washington after the liberation of Kuwait.

Qatar

Minister on Border Dispute With Saudis

PM0611140092 Paris LE MONDE in French 1-2 Nov 92 p 5

[Mouna Naim report: "Qatar Holds Out on Big Saudi Neighbor"]

[Text] Doha—Shaykh Sultan Bin Muhammad al-Qasimi, Amir of al-Shariqah (United Arab Emirates) has just carried out a mediation mission between Qatar and Saudi Arabia with a view to settling the border dispute between those two countries. At the same time, Kuwait is trying to find a solution to this dispute which is poisoning relations among members of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]—Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain, and Kuwait.

"It is all the fault of the British"—this comment by a Qatari leader, although rather perfunctory, nonetheless has some truth in it. Indeed, it is because the British, on leaving the Gulf region in the early seventies, did not draw the boundaries of the countries to which they were granting independence, that the latter have become bogged down in interminable border disputes—between Saudi Arabia and Yemen, between Saudi Arabia and Qatar, between Qatar and Bahrain, between Iran and the United Arab Emirates, not to mention Kuwait and Iraq....

This obviously does not explain why, since the granting of independence, the borders have not been drawn by the ruling regimes. In this respect, you just have to take a map drawn by the Arab League to see that there is no clear line showing the limits of each country. A few dots give a semblance of demarcation lines on either side of which the names of states cross each other.

Qatar, the size of a pocket handkerchief (160km long and 30km wide), has clearly decided to clear things up and set an example. The invasion of Kuwait by Iraq in August 1990 apparently served as a lesson. It is not that Qatar fears invasion by Saudi Arabia or is likely to come to blows with Bahrain. But the leaders of this emirate intend once and for all to assert their sovereignty over what they think belongs to them.

For Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the amir, "an acre of sand is an acre of sand," one diplomat reported, explaining that "he is uncompromising on questions of sovereignty." At all events, the issue reveals the malaise which prevails behind the nice show of harmony given by the GCC. Even if it is not officially stated, it also reflects Qatar's loss of patience over what is seen here as Saudi hegemony over this region.

The incident which sparked off the conflict took place at the end of September. The account of the facts differs from one country to another, but that is not important in view of the objective ("just one more episode" in this academic quarrel, a Qatari journalist said).

Possible Recourse to Court in The Hague]

Is it a questioning of the borders between the two countries. No, Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabbar Al Thani, told us. It is more a matter of making clear, in the drawing of the borders, what was never made clear because of differences of opinion "between the two countries." "Put this question to the experts and they will tell you that the signing or

even the rectification [word as published] of international agreements—including border agreements—only bind the parties concerned if all clauses of these texts are implemented," the minister added.

This clearly means that the secret agreement concluded in 1965 by Qatar and Saudi Arabia on the drawing of their borders is not exhaustive in Qatar's view or, in any case, that Doha and Riyadh have different interpretations of it. Although it has withdrawn its contingent from the GCC joint military force, Qatar does not intend to suspend its participation in this organization. "We have never threatened to do so, contrary to the remarks attributed to us," Shaykh Hamad said, but he added, "the best way of solving the conflicts is to conform to the UN Charter and international law."

In other words, in diplomatic terms, an official explained, this means tht if the current mediation breaks down, Qatar might—and this is completely unprecedented among "fraternal" Arab countries—have recourse to the International Court of Justice in The Hague, as it did last April with regard to its conflict with Bahrain on ownership of the islands of Hawar, Fasht al-Dibal, and Qita'at Jaradah. It has hitherto been difficult to solve the problems by bilateral negotiations or in the GCC framework, or even in the Arab League—two bodies in which Saudi Arabia is dominant.

While sticking firmly to their positions, the Qatari authorities, according to reliable sources, have ordered the army on the borders not to return any Saudi fire. But they are not reluctant to highlight their relations, which have always been good, with Iran, the other big power and Saudi Arabia's rival in the region.

Message of Support From the Iranians

On Tuesday 27 October, Shaykh Hamad had a telephone conversation with 'Ali Akbar Velayati, his Iranian counterpart. Shortly after the recent Saudi-Qatari border incident, President Rafsanjani sent a message of support to the crown prince of Qatar. "That will probably not go very far," a Western businessman commented reassuringly. "Geography is obstinate and Saudi Arabia is the immediate neighbor."

"Our relations with Iran are excellent and we are fully satisfied with them in that they are based on cooperation, mutual respect, and hence respect for sovereignty, and on the principles of good-neighborly relations," Shaykh Hamad told us on this subject. "Iran is one of the Gulf countries...and cooperation with it serves the region's interests."

With regard to fears aroused by Tehran's large-scale arms purchases, he merely said: "That is a matter which concerns Iran alone and over which it has sovereignty. It is not the only country to arm, especially because the Gulf crisis has prompted several states in the region to strengthen their defense means." Finally, as if to irritate the Saudis even further, the crown prince sent a message to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn last Wednesday.

Omani Minister Mediates

JN0711162292 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, [Omani] minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Doha this afternoon on a visit to Qatar.

Before leaving the country, the minister said that he will convey a verbal fraternal message from his majesty the sultan [of Oman] to His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, dealing with the continuous consultations between the two leaders, the situation in the Gulf region, and issues concerning the Gulf Cooperation Council states and the two sisterly countries.

His excellency said the message, and the messages which his majesty the sultan sent last week to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, and the message he will convey today are part of an Omani diplomatic effort to contain the dispute between the two fraternal countries, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. He stressed that his majesty the sultan will send other new messages dealing with joint action to contain the misunderstanding and to enable the two sisterly countries to find means of joint action that are in the interest of the region as a whole.

Saudi Arabia

Prince on Armed Forces Modernization, U.S. Policy

LD0711195992 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1620 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 7 Nov (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, offered his gratitude to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and his well-guided government, for the cooperation and support provided to the Armed Forces.

In a statement to the press today, following his visit to the Prince 'Abdallah Air Base at al-Gharbiyah and the graduation under his patronage of several groups of the base's students, he offered his thanks to the Armed Forces, as represented by the Prince 'Abdallah Air Base. [passage omitted]

Asked about the future outlook for standards at the base Prince Sultan said that the base will, God willing, be modernized completely. On the modernization of the Armed Forces he said that this is under way.

In reply to a question on Western news media reports of a clash between the al-Yamamah project and the Saudi

program for armament by the U.S. forces, his highness said: "This is what they say, but we see no clash and everything is on track."

Asked about his views regarding future U.S. policy, Prince Sultan expressed his belief that U.S. policy never changes just because individuals change.

United Arab Emirates

Press Questions Clinton's Commitment to Arabs

Arabs Eager for 'Amity'

JN0911105192 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 6 Nov 92 p 1

[Editorial: "Edifice of Trust"]

[Text] In his last statement published hours before the election results were announced, U.S. President-Elect Bill Clinton clarified his position on the Middle East crisis in the following broad lines:

- He is determined to continue the peace process that Bush began on the basis of the Camp David accords.
- He believes that it is important to maintain Israel's qualitative military superiority in the region, though he favors reaching an agreement on disarmament.
- He supports Israel in its adherence to Jerusalem as the unified capital.
- In principle, he opposes the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Except what he said about determination to continue the peace process, the other views are considered as mere personal ideas without any official nature because they were made prior to his assumption of power.

It is likely that Clinton will review these ideas once he has had chance to study the dossier of the Arab-Israeli conflict and becomes aware of the importance to the U.S. interests in the Middle East of settling this conflict. Then, the president-elect and his new administration will know that these personal ideas do not much encourage the realization of lasting peace that ensures stability in this part of the world—with all its impact on the world and, in particular, U.S. economies.

Clinton is not asked to reverse his personal ideas, but it is really expected that he will subject his ideas—once he becomes the number one official in charge of his country's policy—to the U.S. strategic constants. One of these constants is to have relations with the Arab world that are, as much as possible, free of impurities.

The Arabs are also eager that amity and understanding will continue to be the basis of their relations with the new U.S. administration. All that the Arabs hope for is that President Clinton will reciprocate the same concern to prevent the elimination of the great edifice of trust, which the Bush administration succeeded to build throughout his tenure.

U.S. Interests Viewed

JN0811193492 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 5 Nov 92 p 1

[Editorial: "Clinton, the President"]

[Text] The American people have settled the U.S. presidential race in favor of Democratic candidate Bill Clinton. This does not mean a disavowal of the major achievements scored by President Bush in the field of foreign policy during the four years he spent in the White House. It specifically means that the majority of American voters are eager for a tangible change in domestic policy, an issue of immediate concern to these voters who found that the Democrats' election program was more responsive to change than the promises of the Republicans, led by Bush.

Unquestionably, we Arabs respect the American people's decision. All that concerns us about the new president is his position on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the effect that his position will have on the ongoing peace process, launched at the direct initiative of President Bush. At the same time, we understand that U.S. foreign policy has constants that do not change with administrations. This policy gives priority to the strategic interests of the United States and not those of any other state, be it Israel or any other.

The United States has a clear interest in ending tension in the Middle East and in establishing stability in this region which is vital to world economy. These can only be achieved by the establishment of a just peace, which can survive and which agrees with international legitimacy and peoples' hopes in the new world order.

Therefore, we support the view which says that the pro-Israel promises Clinton made to Jewish voters are merely election promises, whose validity ends with the announcement of the election results, as long as fulfilling these promises will, in practice, not serve the cause of peace, and, consequently, not agree with the U.S. strategic interests.

At any rate, the Arabs are ultimately the ones who can decide on their own cause and no one can impose an unjust peace on the region. This is due to a one simple and clear reason, which the U.S. Administration has to realize regardless of who runs it. Justice is the principal condition for the durable peace. Without justice, any peace settlement will be no more than a temporary truce which can explode at any time.

Sunni Opposition Group Asks Clinton for Support

NC0811161292 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] The Free Iraqi Council [FIC] has called on U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton to show more interest in providing the best conditions for helping the Iraqi people and Army topple the tyrant Saddam Husayn and his dictatorial regime.

In a cable of congratulations sent by FIC leader Sa'd Salih Jabr to the U.S. president-elect, the FIC urged him to fulfill this goal, one of the constants in any U.S. Administration's policy toward dictatorial and repressive regimes aiming to entrench international security and peace.

The FIC said in its cable that the Iraqi people are waiting for more international backing and support for their efforts to end Saddam's dictatorial and repressive regime, one hostile to human rights and freedom in Iraq.

Government, Opposition Media View U.S. Election

Radio Warns Saddam Not to Celebrate

NC0711194292 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Democratic candidate Bill Clinton has won the U.S. presidential election. Many political analysts expected him to win, basing their expectations on a number of factors which played a role in his victory.

According to these analysts, one of these factors was that President George Bush's administration had concentrated almost all its attention on foreign affairs because it believed that the success of U.S. international policy was necessary for the success of this administration's domestic policies. Another factor was the many problems facing U.S. citizens that were awaiting solutions, such as unemployment and taxes. The unemployment rate rose under Bush. According to the analysts, the U.S. policy in the Middle East has not achieve qualitative and radical progress and the U.S. Administration has failed to get any of the Arab countries out of the arena of conflict with Israel. Some of these analysts believe that President Bush should have ended the Gulf war after eliminating Saddam Husayn's regime and terminating his role as a regional security threat and permanent pit of tension.

But regardless of these analyses, we believe that free elections, which are manifestations of democracy, reflect the peoples' choice of rulers, and therefore there are no winners or losers. As for our Iraqi people's cause in general and the cause of our people in Kurdistan in particular, we believe that the departure of Bush will not change the constructive international stand toward our people's cause and that Clinton's victory will not restore to the Iraqi regime—which is ostracized at the international, regional, and domestic levels—its lost credibility with the Iraqi and other peoples. The UN resolutions must be implemented and the international community and international legitimacy will not fail to uphold justice and will compel the Iraqi regime to comply with the UN resolutions.

The Iraqi regime's attempts to deceive the people and to divert its attention by celebrating what this regime calls President Bush's defeat are no more than attempts to escape the bitter reality facing the regime, the people's resentment, the grave deterioration in the citizens' standards of living, the absence of democracy, and the rampant spread of bribery inside the ruling establishment.

Instead of raising his revolver and firing into the air to celebrate Bush's defeat in the elections, Iraq's dictator should have learned a lesson from the U.S. elections, in which the Americans voted freely and expressed their will in choosing who represents them. Iraq's dictator should have differentiated between the peoples' will to choose their rulers freely and democratically and the practices of tyrants who reach power with the help of tanks, impose their rule by steel and fire, and oppress their peoples.

George Bush has not lost. This is because he did not oppose the American people's hopes but responded to this people's will and accepted it. As for Clinton, let the dictator of Iraq know that he is, above all, a democrat and that the winds of democracy—which make his [Saddam's] regime tremble and shake with fear—are continuing to uproot the dictatorial regimes one after the other. These winds will spare none of the dictatorial regimes.

'Unhappy Ending' of New World Order Seen

JN0911095792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0803 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that the fall of criminal Bush is a fall for his racist political approach and an unhappy ending for the so-called new world order.

In an article today, the newspaper says that Bush invented the term "new world order" to impose U.S. hegemony over the world and to launch an unprecedented pattern of world dictatorship.

The paper stresses that the criminal Bush administration has created a pattern of international relations based on ruthless force, domination of peoples' wealth, and interference in independent nations' domestic affairs, something which made it possible to launch the brutal aggression against Iraq.

The newspaper reveals that the U.S. Administration has struggled to unilaterally control the affairs of the international community and attempted to justify the concept of the "new world order," which is nonexistent in the political idiom nor in international law.

The paper explains that Iraq's steadfastness and victory in the Mother of Battles and the subsequent battle of endurance and reconstruction was one of the direct causes, or rather the most important cause of the fall of criminal Bush and his spiteful political approach, which, had it been destined to continue, would not have spared most independent states.

The paper indicates that Bush's new world order had failed before Bush's fall, since it has been proved that it is a failed, dual, and racist system based on personal interests, and one that does not meet the interests of the international community and imposes decayed patterns of international relations.

The paper says that Washington thinks of nothing but its own interests. In Bosnia-Hercegovina, Somalia, and the war-stricken independent republics of the Soviet Union there is nothing to concern the United States because it has no economic and political interests there.

The newspaper affirms that Western political and media circles, especially in the United States, have for a long time rebuffed Bush's new order, which has lost its godfather. This is because the objective of this order was to propagate the 30-state aggression against our people and country.

Clinton Seen as 'New Stage' in U.S. History

JN0711155292 Baghdad INA in English 1318 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 7, INA—The Iraqi daily newspaper BABIL said that the downfall of George Bush and success of Bill Clinton indicate the start of a new stage in the modern American history.

A paper editorial here today said that aspects of the new stage would witness a minimized focus on external policy and more concern over America's internal problems and economy.

The paper added that the American people had defined the picture of future action of the new American administration because the downfall of Bush was not a sole electoral failure for a president but rather an official declaration to the failure of a programme that was highlighted in the American politics since the early 80s and was represented in the use of force abroad instead of diplomacy for protecting the U.S. interests and liquidating its rivals.

The Iraqi paper said that a realistic voice was raised against Bush policies saying that America before hegemony over the world should rather control its chronic economic diseases.

It said that a unanimity was materialised over such attitude and that Clinton did not only adhere to this attitude but rather the attitude was imposed by the forces that make the presidents in the United States preliminary to resorting to other course in the U.S. policy that is based on curing America's diseases before thinking of controling the entire world. [sentence as received]

The paper also referred to the challenges facing Clinton, the most prominent among which drafting the relationship of alliance with Europe and Japan in the light of current international developments especially when such alliance is now facing a trade war between the United States and the EC that could blow up all the pillars that were established for the world's post-war situation.

U.S. Policy Under Clinton Viewed

JN0711154992 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 7, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily for today expressed confidence that the foreign policy of the United States would witness during Clinton's era states of progress and setback when dealing with the priorities set by the administration of the outgoing President George Bush.

In an analysis published today, the daily said that the American people's decision to vote against Bush's having a second presidential term confirmed their keenness on making changes.

The daily added that the most telling lesson George Bush had learnt from the Americans was that the success in political performance could be attained inside the country, rather than abroad, through a sound internal policy based on feeding the hungry, providing shelter to the homeless, rendering services to the people and ensuring social security, and not through the use of force which was aimed at imposing hegemony over other nations and oppressing their peoples.

The paper focussed on the big moral and material loss the United States had sustained because of Bush's adventures.

It drew a comparison between what George Bush could have achieved in the interest of the American people on the foreign level if he exploited the potentials of the greatest power in the world and what his policy had actually entailed on his country, saying that Bush should have realized that the United States' power lay in its scientific and industrial capabilities, rather than the military force.

It went on saying that Bush had made the biggest mistake in the history of the United States when he ignored his people's needs and paid no attention to his country's scientific weight, being driven by the jubilation of victory following the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the war in the Gulf.

The paper wondered if Clinton would resort to a different policy towards Iraq, the Arab Gulf and the Arab-Israeli conflict. It called the attention to the two firm principles governing the U.S. policy towards the Arab region, namely, ensuring Israel's security and superiority over the Arabs and securing the control over the Arab oil resources to maintain the flow of oil to the industrial West at the cheapest prices.

The daily did not rule out that the threat to use force against Iraq would diminish under Clinton's rule, as he believed that his country did not need to display its military power as much as it needed to have a larger role in the world economy.

AL-JUMHURIYAH expected that Iran would be on top of the list of priorities for the U.S. Administration, especially with Iran's efforts to play a dominant role in the region and develop its military nuclear program and its renewed threats to the Arab Gulf states.

The daily was confident that the principle adopted by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter on the necessity of protecting the U.S. interests in the Gulf and ensuring the stability of the U.S. allies in the region would thrive once again, for the U.S. military presence in the Gulf had to be maintained, the matter that created a tendency towards handling the danger Iran posed to this presence.

It said that the Gulf rulers' loyalty to Bill Clinton might dwindle, and this would in turn affect the level of importance the new president would attach to the future of individuals and rulers who had gotten personal guarantees from President Bush, hence, bringing the U.S. policy back on its usual course, away from any private deals, whatsoever.

But the daily found it more likely that other kinds of political deals would emerge, especially if Clinton brought to his administration figures highly versed in the U.S. foreign policy in the Arab region, like Carter, Jesse Jackson, James Aburizq and Lee Hamilton, pointing out that such deals would be even larger than those Bush had stricken with his allies in the region.

On the future of the new world order under Clinton's rule, the daily said that this order, which was in fact an image of a traditional domination system, would lose its defeat, the new world order would take its natural size, in other words, it would collapse.

Nation's Role in Bush Failure Seen

JN0811084292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0722 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has affirmed that the Iraqi people's steadfastness in the face of U.S. aggressiveness contributed to the fall of U.S. President Bush in the presidential elections.

In an analysis today, the newspaper says that the policies of criminal Bush have revealed that the struggle is one between the ethics of faith and steadfastness, to which the Iraqi people adhere, and the ethics of degeneration and aggression, which the U.S. President has opted for, or rather that are an indigenous part of his own character.

The paper adds: Despite all that has happened, the Iraqi people have shown no sign of weakness, nor did they give in to this beast, but continued the march of reconstruction and innovation at a time when Bush boasted about his brutal bombardment of our people and their economic installations.

The paper explains that Bush's disgraceful actions during his brutal aggression against our great people have thrown him into the quagmire of disgrace. This is because he was not ashamed of resorting to the cheapest and lowliest methods of falsification and hypocrisy in order to rally the largest possible gathering of allies against Iraq in order to win the aggression.

The paper refers to the exposure of Bush's lies, which was reflected on the results of the presidential elections.

The paper says that the Americans have realized the extent of this evildoer's hypocrisy and vileness, who exposed himself through his criminal behavior.

The paper adds: Bush's failure to achieve his dream means that the Iraqis have given this criminal sleepless nights and made him lose his balance in an astounding way.

Arab Leaders Urged To Learn 'Lesson'

JN0811110592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Nov (INA)—The newspaper BABIL has urged some Arab leaders to consider Bush's failure in the recent U.S. elections a useful lesson for them.

In an article under the headline "A Piece of Advice," the paper says that it is impossible to rely permanently on foreigners for security and protection for the regime and persons.

The paper says that a foreigner remains a foreigner, and consequently remains abroad. Even Washington, the paper maintains, can only maintain a temporary presence abroad.

The paper asserts that a foreign ruler today may be replaced by another tomorrow. Politics as well, the paper emphasizes, are not constant, but change as interests and the international situation change.

In its article, the newspaper recalls the former shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who was America's unparalleled ally who did not fail to follow the U.S. or liberal thought. In fact, he was civilized—the American way. The shah had a strong army and security and protection organs which he prepared while the Americans themselves trained them for him. However, the United States did not hesitate to send its envoy, General

Huwyzer [name as received], to Tehran to ask the Iranian Army to stop interfering in the interests of the shah and consequently pave the way for the new regime, which brought Khomeyni to power.

The paper says that when the shah left his country, the first nation that refused to provide him with shelter was the United States itself, which, a few days earlier, considered him its first man in the region and its guardian against communist intrusion.

The paper says: Arab rulers! As President Saddam Husayn told you, the wealth that you hold will become a "factor of provocation" against you yourselves rather than against anybody else.

Concluding its article the paper says: By such behavior, O Arab rulers, you do not provide security for your country nor serve your personal safety. Irrespective of how many Phantom planes you have, they are fewer than the planes the shah had and the weapons of the Baghdad Pact, which the Iraqi Army used to topple the monarchy in 1958.

700 Reportedly Killed in al-Qa'qa' Blast

PM0511141692 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 4 Nov 92 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Seven Hundred Killed in al-Qa'qa' Military Installation Explosion Near Baghdad"]

[Excerpt] Tehran, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Iraqi opposition sources yesterday said that 700 people were killed in the explosion which occurred in military industrial installations near Baghdad. At the level of north Iraq Kurdish sources have expressed concern over Turkish military penetration into Iraqi territory. Tehran too has expressed its concern over the possibility of Turkey's seizing oil installations in Khakurk.

With regard to the explosion, the sources told SAWT AL-KUWAYT that the big explosion, which was said to have shaken Baghdad, occurred in the al-Qa'qa' installations for military industries situated in the al-Yusufiyah area 20 km south of the capital. The sources said the explosion resulted in 700 workers being killed and all buildings destroyed. The sources emphasized that these industries were designed for the production of the ammunition used in heavy artillery in addition to missiles.

As is known, the al-Qa'qa' installations suffered a similar explosion in August 1989 following which the Iraqi regime executed the British journalist Bazoft, who was of Iranian origin. [passage omitted]

Regime Reportedly Receiving Chinese Spare Parts

NC0711171592 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Informed Western sources said last night that the ostracized tyrant's regime is smuggling spare parts for its military arsenal, that it has received at least two new shipments from China, and that it is developing its weapons in secret facilities in Iraq.

A Western intelligence source has said that one of these facilities is a military industrial complex near (al-Tartar) Lake to the northwest of Baghdad. It is recalled that China possesses weapons similar to those used by the ostracized regime.

The sources added that the two shipments included night vision equipment similar to that used by U.S. and British tanks with devastating results against Saddam's forces during the Gulf war. The sources added that the two shipments arrived in Iraq through Jordan, but they could not say accurately how the two shipments passed through. Some sources, however, said that the spare parts were smuggled into Baghdad in Chinese diplomatic bags, which are not searched according to international agreements. They added that the spare parts were sent to the Chinese Embassy in Amman, which in turn sent them to the Chinese Embassy in Baghdad.

The sources accused a Dutch company of smuggling similar shipments of spare parts as foodstuffs, which arrived in the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah and were received by two Amman-based companies that serve the ostracized regime. One of the two companies is called (Awduwah) and is managed by Sultan al-Qawawi, an official in the ostracized regime's party.

Letter to UN Accuses Allies of Exploiting Aid

JN0711112492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] New York, 7 Nov (INA)—Iraq has denounced blatant violations by the aggressive allies in northern Iraq, who have exploited the issue of humanitarian aid as a pretext to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs and to undermine its security and stability, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf says in a message to the UN secretary general.

The foreign minister said: I explained in my previous message the nature of the blatant violations carried out by the so-called allies in northern Iraq. These states have taken the issue of humanitarian aid as a pretext to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs and to undermine its security and stability.

Once again, I would like to draw your attention to a serious development that took place within the framework of this blatant violation: On 23 September 1992, Turkish media published a report saying that the Turkish authorities discovered a consignment of military equipment aboard a French C-160 aircraft while refueling at the Diyarbakir military airport. The plane was supposed to be carrying humanitarian aid to the Kurds in northern Iraq. This report was confirmed by a statement made by the official Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman on the same day. The Turkish spokesman announced that a nongovernmental organization, based

in Britain and licensed by the EC commission, was behind this after obtaining the approval of the Security Council Sanctions Committee.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf added: This serious incident reiterates the fact that the allies' allegations about their concern to present humanitarian aid to northern Iraq are false. This incident shows that arms supplies are being sent under the cover of humanitarian aid. This incident is considered a violation of Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity and interference in its internal affairs. The sides that sent this consignment and the Sanctions Committee, which allowed this shipment contrary to its working rules, are responsible for this incident.

This act by the committee makes us question its known, strict rejection of many requests made by states and organizations to supply Iraq with food, medicine, and basic civilian needs. In this regard, I would like to note that in my message dated 7 August 1992—Document 24392/1—and my message dated 20 September 1992 addressed to the UN secretary general I explained many cases of rejection and suspension of many requests related to the basic and pressing humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people.

The foreign minister asked the UN secretary general to distribute this message and consider it an official document of the Security Council.

Barzani Rejects Turkish Security Strip in North

NC0711162292 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Kurdistan Democratic Party leader Mas'ud Barzani has rejected the establishment of a Turkish security strip in the border area.

In press statements published today, Barzani expressed confidence that the Turkish forces will withdraw from Iraqi territory. Following the start of Turkish-Kurdish talks in northern Iraq, he stressed that Turkish leaders have promised to withdraw from northern Iraq.

Barzani denied that Iraqi Kurds have fought the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK] fighters under pressure from Turkey. But he added that the PKK actions are aimed at aborting what he termed the Kurdistan Front experiment in northern Iraq.

On the other hand, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Kurdistan, the PKK's political wing, said the PKK scored a victory during the battles it recently waged against the coalition of Turkish forces and armed Iraqi Kurds.

In a statement published today, the Front added that more than 1,000 Turkish soldiers and armed Iraqi Kurds were killed and almost the same number injured during the battles that raged in northern Iraq. The statement said that the PKK has not been defeated and has not surrendered to the Iraqi Kurds and that the negotiations between the PKK and the Kurdistan Front were the result of the defeats inflicted on the Iraqi Kurds. The statement added that the PKK fighters have succeeded in thwarting the objectives of the coalition between the Turkish Army and the Kurdistan Front's armed men.

Opposition Executive Committee Members Named

PM0611165592 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 5 Nov 92 pp 1, 7

['Abd-al-Mun'im al-A'sam report: "SAWT AL-KUWAYT Exclusively Publishes Names of 26 Executive Committee Members. Iraqi Opposition To Keep Its Main Offices in Liberated Territories"]

[Text] London—The unified Iraqi opposition conference has emphasized that its leading committees and their offices will remain in the liberated Iraqi territories to follow up the program designed to topple the present regime. And SAWT AL-KUWAYT has obtained the names of the executive committee members whom the conference elected in its last session last week in the town of Salah ad Din, northern Iraq.

Executive committee member 'Aziz 'Alyan told SAWT AL-KUWAYT yesterday that the conference decided to keep the conference chairmanship committee and its main offices in the liberated Iraqi areas to follow up mobilization and media operations designed to toppled Saddam Husayn's regime.

'Alyan pointed out that the conference succeeded in building the Iraqi opposition's unity despite the absence of some major forces. He said that after extensive discussions the conference drew up a real democratic program to topple Saddam. It also drew up an alternate consititution. He pointed out that "tangible steps to topple the regime have begun to be implemented on the ground."

The conference had formed a three-member leadership to head opposition groups and direct their activities against the regime.

'Alyan said that field reports containing military and mobilization considerations were approved at the conference, and they will be implemented in the stage ahead. This is in addition to political, constitutional, and economic reports. He added that the conference was in the process of making contacts with Turkish and regional quarters to put them in the picture with regard to what is happening in Iraq and to brief them on the positions and views of opposition forces on the proposed options.

In this context he pointed to the Turkish-Syrian-Iranian meeting to be held 14 November to discuss Iraq's affairs. He said that the unified conference asked Ankara to include itself as a party to the discussions, because it is one quarter concerned with Iraq's destiny.

SAWT AL-KUWAYT has obtained the names of the 26 executive committee members chosen by the recent Iraqi opposition conference. They are as follows: Ahmad

al-Jalabi (independent liberal) as chairman; Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman (Kurdish United Party); Hushyar Zibari (Kurdistan Democratic Party); Shaykh Hammam Hammudi (Islamic Assembly); Bayan Jabr (Islamic Assembly); Sami al-'Askari (Da'wah Party); Latif Rashid (Patriotic Union of Kurdistan); Kamal Fu'ad (Patriotic Union of Kurdistan); Muhsin Dazyi (independent Kurd); 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Safi (Communist Party); Malla 'Ali 'Abd-al-'Aziz (Kurdish Islamic Movement); Hani al-Fakiki (Arab nationalist); Iyad 'Allawi (National Accord); 'Aziz 'Alyan (Democrats Union); 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Duri (independent); Nizar Haydar (Islamic Action Organization); Muzaffar Arsalan (Turkoman National Party); Arbart Yilda (Assyrian Democratic Party); Jasim Hasan (independent Islamist); 'Abd-al-Husayn Sha'ban (independent democrat); Muhammad Muhammad 'Ali (independent Islamist); Fulayh al-Samara'i (Islamic Bloc); Shaykh Sami 'Azarah al-Ma'jun (tribes); Talib Shabib (former foreign minister, independent); Muhammad 'Abd-al-Jabbar (Islamic cadres); 'Izzat al-Shabandar (Islamic Forces Grouping).

Opposition Groups Voice Reservations on Conference

Islamic al-Dawah Party

NC0611174092 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] The Islamic al-Da'wah Party has declared its reservations about the results of the Salah ad Din Iraqi opposition conference and has threatened to withdraw from its Executive Committee. In a statement issued yesterday, the party said that the Salah ad Din conference diminished the role of the majority in the administrative set up announced by the conference.

The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq earlier declared similar reservations regarding the outcome of the conference, which ended its meetings with the selection of a tripartite political leadership and a 26-member Executive Committee.

In a statement published today, the Islamic Action Organization adopted a similar position. The organization called for the establishment of a political structure consistent with the realities of Iraqi society.

Iraqi Democratic Grouping

NC0811162292 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] The Iraqi Democratic Grouping has said that the Salah-ad-Din Iraqi opposition conference did not represent all Iraqi opposition forces, groups, and parties that are loyal to the causes of Iraq and its people.

In a statement it issued in London recently, the Grouping said that this conference suffered the same defects and shortcomings of the Iraqi opposition conference in Vienna, which U.S. intelligence circles had prepared, organized, and supervised. The Grouping expressed regret that some opposition forces that were regarded as belonging to the national ranks attended the Salah-ad-Din conference. It called on these forces to review their stands, withdraw from the Salah-al-Din conference, and return to the faithful Iraqi national and Islamic ranks. [passage omitted]

Opposition Seeks To Implement U.S. Scheme

JN0811185692 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 4 Nov 92 pp 1, 6

[Editorial: "The Communist Party...Is It a Paradox or a Loss of Memory?"]

[Text] He who follows developments and this or that party's statements, of those who call themselves "opposition forces," will realize that these parties are taking steps to implement a U.S.- British scheme. These are led by Jalal Talabani in a flagrant and exposed manner. This issue has become a subject of pride for him. He rejoices in saying that America has promised him so and so and told him to do so and so. After each trip to Europe, he tells others—those who revolve in his orbit—that goodies and boons will come down to them from the heavens and gush out from the earth because U.S. intelligence gave him a "true promise" this time. This is Jalal Talabani, who, not only in our view, but also in the view of his allies, has fallen in the mud of treason. However, the strange thing is that the positions of these allies have come to constitute a funny paradox, or it is as if they have lost their memory. This is because had they learned lessons from past experiences, they would have benefited from all persecutions inflicted on them by their allies in recent years, and their positions would have been different.

Among those allies those who still call themselves the "Iraqi Communist Party." The Iraqi citizen does not hear this name except from VOA and the BBC, when, for example, they say that Political Bureau member " 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Safi" has criticized the "opposition forces' Vienna conference," and considers those who attended it suspects and not representative of the opposition forces that he represents. Despite this, a few days later, he attended the opposition conference in Irbil to be appointed to a small committee that serves Jalal Talabani's attempts to implement the U.S. scheme. The Communist Party's leadership expressed support for Jalal Talabani's step of slaughtering the Turkish Kurds, forgetting that night in May 1983 when Jalal and his armed men slaughtered 65 communist cadres. The Communist Party called it the Bashtashan [name as published] massacre.

The Communist Party's loss of memory and fall are not confined only to Jalal, but it exceeded him to the agent al-Da'wah Party. The Communist Party has forgotten the al-Da'wah Party's reference to it in the statement of understanding when it described it as follows: "You Marxists, your embracement of Marxism means infidelity and atheism. This necessitates taking you to

account, and we will leave this to God." We say that the Communist Party has forgotten this along with the descriptions of treason, which were included in its statement of 8 February 1977 against the al-Da'wah Party. It has turned its publication TARIQ AL-SHA'B into a an exhibition for the pictures of the spies of the al-Da'wah Party elements, who have become, thanks to the new alliance which is sponsored by Iran, nationalist elements.

The Iraqi Communist Party has turned into a tail for this and that, otherwise, how can we interpret Fakhri Zankanah's visits to Saudi Arabia and turning their trumpets into tools in the hands of the reactionary rulers, running after the al-Da'wah Party elements, and seeking the assistance of the Syrian regime's intelligence at one time and the Iranian regime's intelligence at another in accordance with the alliances which change everyday? Through these changes, the agent becomes nationalist, the thief a leader, and the suspect a "clean element" according to the communist expressions.

The Communist Party has lost the two opportunities, as the popular proverb goes. How it will settle its differences and reconcile between the past and present allies? How it will confront the shortsighted ones who were involved with it? Moreover, how it will confront the sons of the people, who see everyday that some elements are pushing the Communist Party toward the enemies of Iraq's trench, which is the trench of right and nationalism.

Regime Partially Evacuates Camps in South

NC0711161292 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1340 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Saddam's ostracized regime recently evacuated 70 percent of the personnel in its camps in the air exclusion zone. The regime set a date for its mercenaries to return to these camps and instructed them to use civilian dress to deceive UN employees and observers in this area, the residents of which are subjected to heinous oppression and extermination.

The anti-people regime earlier had ordered large numbers of its followers to use civilian dress in the marshlands to deceive international human rights organizations and media personnel who visited the area about two months ago. [passage omitted]

Clandestine Reports Antigovernment Operations

NC0811133092 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] In retaliation for the brutal acts of repression against our Iraqi people in the south by dictator Saddam's regime, the popular mujahidin forces have escalated their operations, seeking to punish the security agencies' henchmen, officials, and the regime's criminal forces.

Our news sources at the media center of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq have reported the following operations:

On the night of 28 October 1992, a popular forces group set up an ambush on the road [words indistinct] of the 95th Brigade's 3d Regiment between Myraybi and [place-name indistinct] in al-'Amarah [Maysan] Governorate. According to our sources, the group opened fire on a vehicle carrying eight of the regime's military personnel, including a first lieutenant, killing them all.

On [date indistinct] October, a heroic popular group confronted an ambush that was set up by the ruling party. The ambush consisted of [words indistinct] leading to al-'Amarah marshlands. Our sources said that three members of the regime's ambush were killed in the operation, and the remainder escaped after sustaining injuries.

On 21 October, popular forces groups [words indistinct] against a regime military post on the road between al-Kahla' and Qal'at Salih. Our forces affirmed that the post was completely destroyed, and its occupants were all killed or wounded.

Saddam 'Mercenaries' Said Killed in Attack

NC0611145092 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1350 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] Our valiant popular forces recently waged a blitz attack on the regime's security dens in the subdistrict of Dujaylah in the Governorate of al-Kut. The brave attack left 42 of Saddam's mercenaries dead, including the subdistrict's director, several security officers, and the head of Dujaylah police station.

Elsewhere, at the beginning of last week, our popular forces attacked a patrol belonging to the [word indistinct] regime, which was moving along the road that links the subdistrict of al-Salam with the subdistrict of al-Islah in al-'Amarah Governorate. The popular forces men succeeded, with God's help, in inflicting various wounds on 10 of Saddam's men.

God bless the fighters of the victorious popular forces and the sons of the brave Iraqi tribes. May God accompany their steps along the path of righteousness and success.

Katyusha Barrage Launched From Lebanon

TA0911054992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Another round of Katyusha rockets was fired at the Galilee Panhandle from southern Lebanon last night. Yesterday evening, several Katyushas were fired at the Western Galilee and the Galilee Panhandle in two rounds. No one was hurt. The residents of the north spent the night in shelters. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] retaliated with artillery shelling of terrorist targets north of the security zone. This morning it was decided that schools will not open for the time being.

Security sources have made it clear that the defense establishment holds a very grave view of the Katyusha attacks and will do whatever is necessary to prevent such attacks on our northern border. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe cites the security sources as saying that the Air Force attacked a Hizballah target in 'Ayn al-Tinah yesterday. Hizballah men were apparently hurt in the attack, and in response they fired Katyushas at the Galilee last night. The sources have made it clear that the Air Force attack came in the wake of a series of Hizballah terror attacks in the security zone.

MK's on Response to Attacks

TA0911103692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Reserves Major General Ori Or, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, believes that the response to last night's Katyusha attacks on the Galilee should be conducted wisely, based on the highest intelligence and with the intention of calming the region and maintaining the peace.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that on the other hand, Tzomet Knesset Member [MK] Refa'el Eytan, former chief of staff, believes that the fact that 21 Katyusha rockets were fired at the Galilee Panhandle definitely means a state of war and that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] must respond in kind. MK Eytan has said that forces must be brought into the security zone immediately and that it should be expanded.

Negotiators Depart; Clinton Adviser To Visit Israel

TA0811055392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] On the eve of the resumption of the peace talks in Washington, it has been learned that James Baker is considering the possibility of a trip to the Middle East capitals. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Baker's aides are discussing the possibility of such a trip, and that if it takes place, it will be coordinated with Bill Clinton's headquarters. The Foreign Ministry has learned that one of Clinton's senior advisers, Stuart Eisenstadt, is slated to pay a private visit to Israel within a few days. This is reported by our correspondent Yo'el Nir.

The Israeli delegations to the negotiations in Washington left for the United States on board an Air Force plane yesterday. Our correspondent notes that in the last round of talks Israel agreed to increase the number of autonomy council members from 15 to 25. The Palestinians want to increase the number of council members further, and the discussion of this issue is expected to continue. Uri Lubrani said that one of the important issues in the deliberations with Lebanon will be to reach an agreement on a meeting of Israeli and Lebanese officers who will handle the issue of guaranteeing security.

Ministry Prepares for Clinton Administration

TA0811072592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Excerpts] The Foreign Ministry is preparing for the Clinton era. The policy toward the new administration is being consolidated, but it seems that no special envoys will be sent to Washington in the meantime. Rather, Jerusalem is expecting the arrival of one of Bill Clinton's advisers, Stuart Eisenstadt. On Friday the Foreign Ministry held a multiparticipant discussion on the various possibilities in Israeli-U.S. relations. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports:

That was an initial discussion about the U.S. upheaval and its implications for Jerusalem-Washington relations. Participating in it were, among others, former Ambassadors to the United States Efrayim 'Evron and Moshe Arad, as well as future Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, Eytan Bentzur, and many others, a total of 40 people. [passage omitted]

Some in the Foreign Ministry believe that the change of ambassadors in Washington should be speeded up so that the new ambassador will be able to follow the new administration emerging there. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 8 November adds that "during the discussion Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that at this stage Israel will not send envoys to the United States to hold initial contacts with Bill Clinton's people since this may be interpreted as inappropriate behavior toward the Bush administration, which helped Israel and the current government."]

As for the new administration's attitudes, the Foreign Ministry believes it will place an emphasis on the negotiations with the Palestinians and will demonstrate a tougher line toward the Syrians. The Democrats have a record of sensitivity for human rights, it is believed in Jerusalem. During the discussion Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that Israel should take preemptive action and attack the Arabs on this issue.

Another issue under discussion was the possibility of a U.S. civilian foreign aid cut to Israel. Some in the

Foreign Ministry believe that on this issue, too, Israel should take preemptive action and propose a limited cut in the civilian aid in return for compensation in the defense aid. In any event, Israel is consolidating a new-old policy vis-a-vis the budding U.S. administration.

Peres Comments on Clinton, Peace Process

TA0711102392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0805 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Telephone interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by moderator Dalya Ya'iri and political correspondent Shlomo Raz—live]

[Excerpt] [Ya'iri] Good morning and a good Sabbath to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. This weekend, following the U.S. elections, you were quoted as saying that what is good for the United States is good for Israel. Clinton's intention today is to act on U.S. economic and domestic issues. We heard less about foreign affairs. What does an Israeli foreign minister do in the week following the U.S. elections? Whom does he contact?

[Peres] He usually tries to draw a map of people who are possible candidates for administration jobs and a list of the issues that should be discussed with them. I believe that Clinton will continue the peace process. I have room to believe that Clinton has a basically positive attitude toward the State of Israel.

[Raz] Do you have any specific idea already as to whom you should talk to and who are slated to serve in senior positions in the State Department and in the peace talks with Israel?

[Peres] No, I do not know. I only know of quite a long list of candidates. It is difficult to tell whom Mr. Clinton will choose, but this list is more or less known to many.

[Ya'iri] The peace process is continuing, and you actually are standing on the sidelines. It may be a little difficult to explain to the U.S. Administration that a foreign minister is standing on the sidelines on such a key process. How do you intend to do this?

[Peres] I am not standing on the sidelines. Why do you say so? I am a full partner in the peace process. One issue [the bilateral talks] is led by the prime minister, while I am in charge of the other [the multilateral talks], but we work jointly on the peace process. I receive all reports and also brief or intervene when I find it appropriate to do so.

[Raz] Mr. Peres, on what are you basing the argument that the change of U.S. administrations will not cause any delay in the peace process?

[Peres] Who said that this will not cause any delay? This surely can cause a delay, but two points must be taken into consideration. First, the peace process has assumed a momentum of its own. Even if there is nobody in the State Department, the two delegations know where to go, at which table to sit, how to open the talks, and how to manage. There also are informal talks. In other words, the routine that has been established makes it possible to hold the meetings....

[Raz, interrupting] So, maybe it is worthwhile to transfer the talks to the region, as was suggested at the time?

[Peres] U.S. sponsorship still is very valuable. It is acceptable to both sides, and there is no reason to give it up. The United States is a very well-organized country. When the United States enters any issue it knows it inside out, in detail, and even though it does not participate in the negotiations as they are being held, it still follows the negotiations before and after the meetings, briefs the negotiating parties, counsels them, wears an angry countenance on occasion, suggests a direction sometimes, and so on and so forth. So, now, too, the United States is playing a very important role in the process.

[Raz] Will the Clinton administration follow the talks in a way similar to that we have witnessed so far? To be more specific, the emerging administration seems to be surrounded by Jews, and the constant fear in Israel is whether it is good for the Jews in Israel that Jews elsewhere are in such sensitive positions, or whether it would have been better otherwise, not to mention the fact that the opinions of some of those Jews who are slated to occupy senior positions are known and may be problematic?

[Peres] Look, one time before Shultz became secretary of state, when it already was known that he would be appointed to that position, I was asked to talk to Shultz, with whom I was on friendly terms, so that he would appoint a Jew, not himself, as an envoy to the Middle East. George Shultz looked at me and said: Tell me, Sir, do you not believe that a non-Jew also can be Israel's friend? Let me say then, both a non-Jew and a Jew can be Israel's friends. The two things are unrelated. A very large number of Jews were in key State Department positions in the outgoing administration, too. This did not disrupt anything. It should be seen in quite a positive light.

[Raz] What should Israel do to give another push to the peace talks? We reached a very interesting stage with Jordan. Should we not perhaps come out with a little more concrete statement about the Golan Heights and the Syrians so as to reach the same achievements on that front as well?

[Peres] Look, at this stage we should coordinate our strategy with the new administration for the next four years. It may be necessary to enable the Syrians to make another step in the upcoming round of talks. It should be noted that they have made one step; it is pointless not to describe matters for what they are: The Syrians finally have uttered this terrible word, peace, but their peace remains an abstract one. When they talk about a withdrawal, they are very much down to earth, but when they

talk about peace, they are very celestial. The Syrians in fact want to reap Egypt's fruits without offering Egypt's style or road.

[Ya'iri] How about us?

[Peres] We tell them two things. First, open up the negotiations, and second—and this is the main point—be specific as to what you mean when you say peace.

[Raz] Can you promise the Golan settlers that they all will stay in their settlements and homes?

[Peres] Look, at this stage the negotiations are not with Golan settlers. There are two sets of negotiations, one among ourselves and one with the Syrians. In the negotiations conducted so far, no concessions have been made that would require that the Golan settlements be removed. We should make further progress in the negotiations, however. We have not concluded them yet. I believe that we should tell the Golan settlers clearly that they are the entire nation's messengers, that they have played a first-rate role in guaranteeing the Golan's security as well as in promoting peace. The promotion of peace also is a significant mission. No additional commitments should be made beyond this today, I believe.

[Raz] We are on the eve of a continued round of talks with the Palestinians. What can we offer the Palestinians so that it will be possible to make the same progress with them as with the Jordanians?

[Peres] We have made quite a bit of progress in informal talks with the Palestinians, from the Palestinian viewpoint as well. Our impression is that what is holding up an agreement with the Palestinians like the one with the Jordanians is disagreements within the delegation rather than disagreements with us. For instance, the Tunis PLO is trying to draw independence out of the autonomy. This is impossible. It is not entirely clear to me why Tunis is trying to do so. Does it believe this is possible, in which case this is a very basic mistake? Or does it feel dissatisfied with the fact that the negotiators are making more progress than they would have liked to see?

[Raz] Maybe we are not talking with the right people to begin with. Only this past week we heard a report by Major General Rothschild, the coordinator of activities in the territories, who said—this is the spirit of what he said if not an accurate quote—that the delegation with whom we are negotiating does not represent the area.

[Peres] This delegation is like Eve in Eden: There is no one else. There is no other delegation.

[Raz] Maybe we should simply talk with the Tunis PLO.

[Peres] This delegation is recognized by all parties on the Palestinian side. We told the delegation out loud that it can, as it does in fact, consult whomever it wants. Therefore, I do not think this is the main reason. The advantage of this delegation is that it is recognized by Israel, by shall we say the Palestinian institutions if not all the Palestinians...

[Raz, interrupting] Would you be willing to have declared PLO members part of the delegation?

[Peres] No, and for two reasons: First, its hands are still stained with blood. Furthermore, here and there we continue to discover signs of PLO involvement in terrorism. We will not be able to explain this to the people. Let me quote somebody who put it in a very picturesque manner: The problem with 'Arafat is that he gave the order to hurt the Ma'alot children. This cannot be forgotten or forgiven. Second, to begin to reconstruct the delegation today will take a very long time, and we do not have that much time. My inner feeling is that the life span of the opportunity may be as short as the opportunity is great.

[Raz] What are we proposing in the multilateral talks for the refugees? The relevant committee is convening in Ottawa in a few days, after all.

[Peres] We will propose practical solutions, because if the refugees, during the discussion on refugees, engage only in calculating demands, they will not receive an answer from anybody. Theoretically, they may say, for instance, that Israel should pay $100 billion. So what? Who will pay this?

[Raz] What if they ask for $100 million, namely, if they talk about remuneration?

[Peres] There is a difference between $100 million and $100 billion, but Israel too has demands. There are also Jewish refugees who came from the Arab countries. Therefore, in the framework of the refugee talks we will say: Dear friends, one should have respect for reality; you are to blame for the emergence of this reality no less than we are.

[Raz] If I understand you correctly, we want to channel deliberations in this committee to the issue of compensation.

[Peres] I do not know if we are talking of compensation only. We want to bring this question down to earth as much as possible, so that it will not be a question of who wants what but of what can be done in the current situation, in the framework of existing possibilities. I also notice that many countries, including the United States, are not rushing to endorse remuneration, since whoever declares his willingness to pay will have the bill sent to his address. [passage omitted]

PLO Demands Israel Change Law on Meetings

TA0611172892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] Palestinian and Israeli sources in Cairo report that the PLO leadership demands fulfillment of a promise it received from a senior Labor party official prior to the Israeli elections. The sources claimed that the official promised that if Labor formed the next government, the law prohibiting meetings with PLO officials would be

changed and negotiations would be held with the Palestinians on an autonomy which would include the establishment of a legislative body.

The sources noted that the promise was delivered through Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and was made with the knowledge of Robert Pelletreau, the U.S. ambassador in Cairo.

The same report says that PLO leaders have clarified to the United States, Egypt, and Israel that they will not permit the Palestinian delegation to make progress in the peace talks until the promise is implemented and unless the dialogue between the PLO and the United States is resumed.

Jordanian Claim to 'Arava Lands Recognized

TA0811085792 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Nov 92 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] Israel recognizes the justice of the Jordanian claim to territories taken from it in the 'Arava, but will make a supreme effort to keep these territories within the framework of the peace negotiations, political sources in Jerusalem said.

The Israeli delegations to the negotiations left for Washington last night for the second part of the seventh round of peace talks. Jerusalem hopes that the Jordanian delegation will formally announce acceptance of the document on the agenda and the components of the settlement agreed upon in the first part of the current round. According to initial planning, the two delegations are meant to start the practical discussions on water issues, especially the arrangements to divide the waters of the al-Yarmuk.

Jerusalem does not expect to discuss in this round the issue of 'Arava lands, which are being demanded by Jordan. Nevertheless, the sources reported that while Israel does not have a legal claim over 350 sq km of land "annexed" in the 1960's, it will try to make proposals in order to get a Jordanian agreement for these territories to remain with Israel. Israel also disagrees with Jordan on the precise location of the international border in several locations.

Nevertheless, a senior source in Jerusalem made it clear last night that "the fate of the territories in the 'Arava will not prevent the signing of a peace accord between the two countries," and this can be understood to mean that at a later stage of the negotiations, Israel will agree to return these lands if it does not reach a different arrangement with Jordan.

Elyaqim Rubinstein, chairman of the delegation to talks with Jordan, met at the weekend with settlement heads in the 'Arava to discuss the claimed territories. On their return from Washington, Rubinstein and the delegation will conduct a comprehensive tour of the controversial lands.

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office said last night that no new guidelines have been handed to the delegation conducting the negotiations with Syria, and it will continue its efforts to reach an agreed upon declaration of principles. With the opening of the talks in Washington tomorrow, the dispute over clause 5 of the declaration of principles is expected to continue. This refers to a withdrawal tied to peace and security arrangements.

In the talks with the Palestinians, the effort will continue to reach an agreed agenda, and at the same time the informal discussions in the subcommittees will continue. In the first part of the talks discussions were held on the structure of interim settlements, with Israel confirming its agreement to call the autonomy council an "executive council" [mo'atza menahelet] and to expand it from 15 to 27 members. At the same time, discussions were also held on a land settlement in the territories during the interim stage, with the Israeli position being that the lands now belonging to Jewish settlements continue to remain under their authority, lands belonging to Arabs be run by them, while all the other lands—known as "state lands"—to be subject to negotiations between the two sides in order to find an agreed upon solution.

In the negotiations with Lebanon, a discussion on the Israeli proposal that the delegations set up committees of officers to discuss possible security arrangements between the two countries is expected to continue.

Rabin, Peres Differ on Secret Talks With Arabs

TA0811091292 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 8 Nov 92 pp 1, 8

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar]

[Excerpts] Differences of opinion have surfaced between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres over how to conduct the political negotiations.

In a tough conversation between the two leaders, Peres claimed that while negotiations are being held between the delegations, there is also room for a secret dialogue between statesmen at the foreign ministerial level, as was the case between [former Egyptian presidential adviser Hasan] al-Tuhami and [the late Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe] Dayan [which led to the Israeli-Egyptian peace accord] or between heads of state, such as between [the late Israeli Prime Minister] Golda Meir and Jordan's King 'Abdallah.

Peres said that in his view, informal contacts at the political level would pave the way for faster progress in the talks between the delegations. In his view, such meetings would permit heads of government to reach agreements on issues of principle with the delegations

later focusing on the details. In this way, Peres believes, the required trust to reach signed agreements would be reached.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, on the other hand, believes that the negotiations have to be conducted only between the delegations, with the heads of delegation receiving the necessary briefings from the political echelons. Such negotiations are more thorough and permit a deeper investigation of each subject, when it is clear from the start that the aim of the discussions is to reach a peace accord.

Sources close to Rabin and to Peres confirmed that differences of opinion between the two exist. The issue has been debated and Prime Minister Rabin's attitude has been adopted. [passage omitted]

Political sources in Jerusalem reported that it is reasonable to assume that on the basis of impressions from earlier meetings, when the current round of talks ends next Thursday, there will be no point in reconvening in December, and the next meeting will be held only after 20 January, when the new president enters the White House.

Peres Briefs Cabinet on Multilateral Talks

TA0811182892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Excerpts] The cabinet will hold a special debate about accidents in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. A charged atmosphere prevailed in today's cabinet session in the wake of the chief of staff's report about last week's training accident in Ze'elim. A slightly more optimistic item in today's session was Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' report about the multilateral talks. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports:

[passage omitted] The charged atmosphere changed upon Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres's report about the multilateral talks. Peres emphasized that the multilateral talks are dependent on the bilateral talks, and noted that it is hard to believe that any real progress can be made in the former if similar progress is not made in the latter. Nevertheless, the foreign minister said, there is no need to wait, seeing that numerous possibilities exist to make progress in the multilateral talks, not to mention that such progress would improve Israel's international position.

Peres noted that 35 countries participate in these talks, including 12 to 14 Arab states and three special delegations on behalf of the EC, the World Bank, and the UN. He went on to say that the EC is prepared to finance a study of the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea; the Netherlands, an environmental profile of the Gaza Strip; Italy, a regional seminar on garbage processing; Israel, a study about deserts; the United States, a workshop on handling of environmental emergencies—meaning emergencies in the Red Sea, which would call for a red phone line between Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan; and Japan, an additional seminar in one of its Coast Guard bases.

In sum, workshops, words, declarations. The question remains when all these will be translated into action.

Knesset Group Tours Gaza, Meets PLO Officials

TA0811191492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] A subcommittee of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee which deals with Civil Administration matters toured the Gaza Strip today and met with representatives of the PLO and the Popular Front, as well as with a representative of the Gush Qatif settlers. The tour was attended only by coalition members, whereas opposition members boycotted it because most of it was devoted to meetings with Arab inhabitants rather than with the Jewish settlers. The latter said they were sorry that members of the opposition did not participate in the tour.

King's Speech, Interview Said To Criticize Saddam

JN0611135392 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpt] Jordan's King Husayn criticized Iraqi President Saddam Husayn twice over the past 24 hours by implicitly referring to him in a speech delivered yesterday, in which he affirmed the need to stand up to the ambitious and to the renegades, and to those who advocate tyranny or tie the destiny of nations to individuals.

In an interview published in a British newspaper [not further identified] today, King Husayn affirmed that he never was, and will never be, ready to ally himself with a ruling faction which, in the eyes of history, could be partially or fully responsible for the destruction of Iraq, for its fragmentation, or for the catastrophe that such an occurrence would bring to the region.

Observers believe that this stand could contribute to an improvement of Jordan's relations with the Gulf countries, particularly with Saudi Arabia, which boycotted Jordan during the Gulf crisis in view of the Kingdom's stand in support of Iraq. [passage omitted]

'Foreigners' Misinterpreted Speech

JN0711105192 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Nov 92 p 28

["Everyday" column by Tariq Masarwah: "We Understood It As It Really Was!"]

[Text] Let the radios of "Israel," London, and Monte Carlo understand and interpret Husayn's speech in whichever way they like. This will not change a thing in the speech made to the people of Jordan and the Arab world. The speech certainly was written in Arabic, so only Arabs can really understand it. They do not give it more, or less, meaning than it really has.

In his speech, Husayn wanted to describe his feeling as he was heading to the hospital after it became certain that he had cancer. In the process, he recalled his career, the position his founding grandfather occupies in his heart, and the position the Hashemites occupy in Arab history. That kind of soliloquy only can be understood by foreigners and Jews as a "farewell speech!"

Husayn wanted to say that medicine has proven that his illness is now gone, but in a month he will have to go for further tests to confirm that he is cured. "Radio Israel," however, understood this to mean that Husayn is sick and is going to the United States for "treatment and checkups."

Husayn wanted to say, very loudly, that the pan-Arab principles have not been defeated despite the miserable Arab situation. He also wanted to say that the Arab struggle movement must deliver democracy and respect for human rights to the people. He very clearly called for removing from the Arabs' lives dictatorships, tyrants, and the plunderers of peoples' wealth. Israeli, London, and Monte Carlo radios understood this to be a denunciation of a certain Arab regime, whose destruction is of interest to these same radios, not for reasons related to dictatorship, tyrannical regimes, or plundering peoples' wealth, but because the masters in Washington, London, and Paris wanted this to be said.

Husayn's emotional speech to his people and nation does not allow all this interpretation. He wanted to thank the people and tell them of his feelings and views during his treatment. And, as he has always done, he wanted to say something about the future.

It is amazing how these foreigners harbor all this hatred against our Arab peoples. Was it not enough that they divided our nation, planted Zionism in its heart, and then proceeded to destroy our power every time we begin to rise? Was what they have done and are still doing in Palestine, Lebanon, and Iraq not enough?

The people in Jordan understood Husayn's speech as it really was. We believe no Arab could understand it any other way.

Clinton's Election Victory, U.S. Ties Viewed

JN0811152692 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Nov 92 p 18

["An Arab Opinion" column by Mahmud al-Rimawi: "Additional Ideas on Clinton's Success"]

[Text] Even though Clinton was elected president of the world, none of the world peoples, with the exception of his own U.S. compatriots, elected him. In light of this, it might be proper for us to say that we neither support nor oppose him. However, we in the Arab region wish to see him pursue fair policies, something that would prompt us to support him. It is absolutely incorrect to assume that the Middle East, the cradle of religions and old civilizations, is devoid of all peoples except the Israelis coming from Poland, Russia, and Ethiopia. Mr. President: There are other peoples in the region—peoples who are more homogeneous than Israelis and with even larger populations and older and richer civilizations than those of Israel. It is not my intention here to draw distinctions between peoples. In the same vein, it is incorrect to say that Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East.

Indeed, what is correct is that Israel is the only democracy which has allowed itself to occupy others' territory and to deny the existence of another people, who are one of the historical components of the Middle East region. Of course, I am here referring to the Palestinian people. Furthermore, there are other countries in the region pursuing a democratic system of government, such as Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, and Yemen. These are only a few examples of the democracies in the region.

When renowned U.S. officials speak of common values binding their country to Israel, one is really amazed. For, neither the fossilized Zionist ideology is embraced in the United States nor is the policy of annexation, expansion, and occupation pursued by Israel the declared policy of the United States. Moreover, international law, which is held in contempt by Israel, and disregard for the United Nations and its resolutions, which marks Israel's conduct, are not the hallmark of U.S. political practices. How then can there be common values between an open system based on modernization and renewal and Israel, a country which embraces a rigid creed and which does not hesitate to perpetrate all types of oppression and torture against all that is non-Jewish in the world? How can this country be a part of the international community when it denies the existence of the peoples, civilizations, religions, and creeds surrounding it at a time when it desperately needs to recognize others so that it may win recognition of its own existence in the region (which only dates back less than half a century)?

In March 1993 Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will leave for Washington. He might be the first world leader to meet President Clinton and his team at the White House.

In the past, Arab leaders used to ask a leader from among themselves to speak with the U.S. Administration or other world leaders on their behalf. In light of the prevalent circumstances which are marked by division, nobody knows when and under what circumstances the Arabs will hold a high-level meeting with the new occupant of the White House. If such a meeting were to take place sometime, would the issues that might be raised be overall Arab issues that concern all Arabs, such as the Middle East conflict, or would there be new instigation against Iraq or Sudan?

Jordan, PLO Discuss Draft Peace Talks' Agenda

JN0811093492 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Nov 92 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Saturday discussed the draft agenda for Jordanian-Israeli peace talks which was adopted in Washington 10 days ago. According to sources close to the talks, the PLO submitted a list "of written observations" to the Jordanian government late last week seeking clarification on several points included in the agenda.

The PLO delegation which included Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, a PLO Executive Committee member and head of the PLO information department, head of the Palestinian delegation Faysal al-Husayni and PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab, met with Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir.

Although both sides kept a tight lid on the nature of the talks describing them as "sensitive," sources close to the negotiations in Washington said that the Palestinians were seeking to improve the terms and language of the agenda.

"We are anxious to close any loopholes that may arise," a Palestinian source confirmed in Amman. He said that the talks with the Jordanians came after last week's meeting of the Palestinian leadership in Tunis during which the subject of the Jordanian-Israeli agenda was discussed.

"A number of ideas and observations were made at that meeting and it was decided that they should be discussed with the Jordanian side as part of the coordination efforts that all the Arab parties to the talks have pledged themselves to," said another source, who insisted on anonymity.

The PLO also dispatched a separate delegation, headed by the organisation's Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi, to Syria for an exchange of views on the Arab-Israeli peace talks, which are due to resume in Washington Monday.

News agencies quoted Mr. Qaddumi as telling reporters that his talks in Syria were aimed at "forging a unified Arab position towards regional and world developments."

In Amman, Jordanians and Palestinians have refrained from making public comments on the exact points discussed between them, but they expected a quiet continuation of talks. Meetings have remained low-key in an effort which officials from both sides describe as aimed at deflecting the efforts of critics to undermine Palestinian-Jordanian coordination on the agenda. The officials emphasised the value of an internal debate in preventing opponents from "using rumours to serve their own purpose."

Both parties rejected reports of conflict but a source said that it had become apparent "that more and deeper coordination was needed among the Arab sides."

The head of the Jordanian delegation to the talks, 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, was recalled to Jordan for consultations last week. He left for Washington early Saturday to prepare for Monday's talks. During his stay in Amman he met with a PLO delegation which was here ahead of the Tunis meeting.

The Palestinians, according to sources close to the talks, are seeking further explanations on mutual areas of concern, particularly on refugees and territorial issues.

Jordanian officials, on the other hand, insist that while the agenda may have been written "in compromise language on the items, it does not compromise the issues," and that the present language does not preempt the reworking of issues of common interest to both Jordanians and Palestinians during negotiations.

A source close to the peace talks in Washington, who insisted on anonymity, told the JORDAN TIMES last

week that in its final form, the agenda "reserved the right to raise any issue that the two parties may want to raise under any item in the agenda."

"The agenda has to be seen in its full context and not as one item on its own," the source said. The Cabinet was expected to discuss the draft Saturday evening.

The Palestinians are seeking a definite reference in the agenda to United Nations Security Council Resolution 194 in item 4 of the agenda which deals with refugees and displaced persons. In its present form the item on Jordan-based Palestinian refugees calls for "achieving an agreed just solution to the bilateral aspects of the problem of refugees and displaced persons in accordance with international law."

Of more concern to Palestinians, however, are two disputed points on item 5 on the agenda which addresses "borders and territorial matters." Palestinians argue that the item treats the issue of occupied Palestinian territories as an Israeli-Jordanian border issue rather than a territorial one of concern to Palestinians as well. The first sentence in item 5 states "Settlement of territorial matters and agreed definitive delimitation and demarcation of the international boundary definition under the Mandate."

The second Palestinian concern, within the same item, was over the acceptance of Israel's definition of the geographic jurisdiction of the occupied territories as the "territories presently under Israeli military government control." The Palestinians argue that this definition "sets a precedent for the Israeli-Palestinian track" in which a deadlock is appearing over Israeli insistence over this definition and Palestinian rejection of it.

The item includes the phrase that a settlement would be achieved "without prejudice to the status of the territories presently under Israeli military government control; both parties will respect and comply with the above international boundary."

The Palestinians argue that this definition excludes occupied Jerusalem and settlements which together constitute more than half of the territories occupied in the 1967 war.

The Jordanians, however, argue back that the agenda only deals with the Jordanian-Israeli track of negotiations and therefore it defines the border dispute as that of the Mandate, which does not touch on the status of the Israeli-occupied West Bank. "The Mandate line is between Jordan and Palestine and does not affect Palestinian negotiations with Israel over the West Bank; nor does it prejudice the border between any Palestinian entity and Israel," a Jordanian source told the JORDAN TIMES.

The Jordanians further argue that the Kingdom's acceptance of this definition came after gruelling negotiations over this item, with the Israelis insisting on defining the territorial issue as one over "disputed territories."

Over the second point, Jordanians explain that the definition of territories as those presently under Israeli military government control does not exclude Jerusalem and the settlements if seen from a Jordanian and Arab perspective which considers all pre-1967 territories as territories under Israeli military control.

They also point to the first pargraph of the agenda which defines the goal of the talks as being "the achievement of just, lasting and comprehensive peace between the Arab states, the Palestinians and Israel as per the Madrid invitation."

Jordanians point to this paragraph as meaning that Jordan will not sign a unilateral peace treaty with Israel without achieving this larger goal first and add that Jordan has made repeated statments stressing that it will not make peace with Israel before equal progress is made on the other tracks in the talks.

Brotherhood Accuses Negotiators of Exceeding Mandate

JN0811092892 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Nov 92 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman Safadi]

[Text] Amman—The Muslim Brotherhood bloc in the Lower House of Parliament Saturday accused Jordanian peace negotiators with Israel of deviating from the government's declared basic principles for Arab-Israeli peace and demanded the team "be held accountable for exceeding its mandate."

In a strongly-worded statement against what it called "the Jordanian-Israeli agreement," the parliamentary office of the bloc said the informal draft agenda reached by Jordanian and Israeli negotiators in Washington on Oct. 27 bodes ill for "our national unity and inter-Arab relations."

Reaffirming its rejection of conceding any part of Palestine to Israel or "giving the Jews legitimacy on our land," the bloc said the government should turn down the "agreement" and terminate the peace talks as a futile exercise.

The Brotherhood referred to the draft agenda as a "declaration of peace principles with the Zionist enemy (that will lead) to normalisation of relations" in all fields.

The government has not yet endorsed the agenda and calls it a preliminary agreement on general guide lines for the peace talks. It is currently discussing its contents with representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The Brotherhood statement lashed out at the "agreement" for failing "to include a (demand for) a complete Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied since 1967, a reference to Jerusalem..." or Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

The draft agenda, which was published in the JORDAN TIMES on Oct. 29, said Jordan and Israel will pursue a lasting and comprehensive peace on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. Jordan interprets Resolution 242 as demanding a complete Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem.

The Brotherhood statement also said the "agreement, which the Brotherhood deputies see as a realisation of Jewish goals" for "recogising international borders between Jordan and the Jewish entity as demarcated under the British Mandate which considered the River Jordan the border between Jordan and Palestine."

According to the copy of the draft agenda published also in Al-Ra'y Arabic daily, however, Israel and Jordan will, if they adopt the agreement, discuss the "demarcation of the international boundary between Jordan and Israel with reference to the boundary definition under the (British) Mandate, without prejudice to the territories presently under Israeli military government control."

Claiming that the draft agenda will deny refugees the right of return, the statement said the agenda transforms the problem of refugees into an issue of displaced people "to be solved under international law, overlooking United Nations resolutions in this regard."

The draft agenda says Israel and Jordan will achieve "an agreed just solution to the bilateral aspects of the problem of refugees and displaced persons in accordance with international law."

According to Pascal Karmi, a former legal advisor to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), United Nations Resolution 194, which upholds Palestinian refugees right to return or to be compensated, falls within conventional international law. He said the resolution was adopted by the U.N. General Assembly, which represents the international community.

Mr. Karmi said neither customary (unwritten) international law nor conventional (written) international law (which includes the U.N. charter and all other agreements reached by bodies representing the international community) deny refugees the right of return, pointing out that all U.N. resolutions fall within conventional international law.

A Brotherhood deputy told the JORDAN TIMES Saturday that the bloc's statement does not represent the beginning of a new drive against what he called "the surrender process" because the effort has not stopped.

Shaykh Hammam Sa'id said the bloc would seek the support of other groups in the country in its camapign to terminate the peace negotiations, which the Brotherhood sees as an effort by the United States to force Arabs to "obey its commands."

In addition to its ideological opposition to the process, Mr. Sa'id said, the Brotherhood sees the election of a more Israeli-biased president in the United States as yet another reason for abandoning the process.

Asked if the movement has considered moving a no-confidence vote against the Cabinet of Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir if the government signs the draft agenda, Mr. Sa'id said the bloc had not discussed that yet but "all options are still open."

The Islamic resistance movement, Hamas, Saturday echoed the Brotherhood's call on Jordan to abandon the peace process, describing reports that the country and Israel have reached an agreement on the draft agenda as "a known tactic aimed at pushing Palestinians to make more concessions."

In a statement faxed to the JORDAN TIMES, Hamas also called for the release of nine of its activists it alleges are detained in Jordan as well as deputies Layth Shubaylat and Ya'qub Qirrish. The two deputies are currently on trial for allegedly belonging to an underground group—Shabab al-Nafir al-Islami.

Muslim Brotherhood Appeals for Deputies' Release

JN0711090392 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Nov 92 p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Amman—The Muslim Brotherhood Thursday appealed to His Majesty King Husayn to issue a royal decree ending the case of deputies Layth Shubaylat and Ya'qub Qirrish who are accused of belonging to an illegal armed group which allegedly plotted to topple the regime through subversive activity.

In a strongly-worded statement, the office of the Brotherhood deputies in Parliament also called on the people to "raise their voices and demand from the government, which referred the case to the State Security Court, to end this catastrophe that is taking place during a so-called democratic phase."

"If the government insists on ignoring Jordanian public opinion, which is not convinced with this case, and ignoring the deteriorating health condition of the two deputies, we seek a royal decree to end this slide on which the government has slipped, so that Jordan remain an oasis of democracy and freedom," the statement read. The detained deputies have been on a hunger strike since Oct. 18.

The statement was the second in the last two months related to the trial of independent Islamist deputies Shubaylat and Qirrish by the well-organised 23-man parliamentary bloc. It criticised what was described as the "extraordinary security presence" in Marka (where the court is located).

In its first statement, Sept. 6, before the accused deputies were referred to the court, the Muslim Brotherhood had demanded constitutional amendments that would

ensure the same immunity for deputies as that accorded to former and incumbent ministers. Deputies lose their immunity when Parliament is in recess, and Mr. Shubaylat and Shaykh Qirrish were arrested the week following the end of the last extraordinary session on Aug. 25. A two-thirds parliamentary majority is required to indict former or serving ministers for alleged crimes related to their duties.

Mr. Shubaylat and Shaykh Qirrish were arrested in August for alleged involvement in an illegal Islamic militant group, "Shabab al-Nafir al-Islami." The deputies, along with two shopkeepers, are being tried for possession of weapons and explosives which the prosecution have claimed were to be used inside Jordan. The two deputies are also charged with undermining Jordanian-Iraqi relations, and Mr. Shubaylat is charged with slandering His Majesty the King and members of Parliament.

The deputies pleaded not guilty to all the charges, and have vowed not to cooperate with the court after their defence pulled out in protest against the court proceedings. The defence made its decision to walk out on Oct. 18 after a "secret" session, where a man—identified by the prosecution as Syrian "Yasin Ramadan Yasin"—testified he had delivered 300,000 German marks ($200,000) from the Iranian leadership to Mr. Shubaylat. The deputy has denied he had seen the man before and the Iranian government has said it had nothing to do with the group.

The five-week trial ends on Tuesday when the three-man military tribunal hands out the verdict, which could mean the death penalty if the defendants were found guilty.

The Brotherhood also criticised the official media for its coverage of the "al-Nafir" trial, accusing them of being biased against the accused deputies and of "serving the prosecution and the executive branch, and stifling the power, union and parliamentary voices, calling for ending the case of the two deputies."

Describing the trial as a "political one and not a legal one," the Islamic deputies insisted that the trial contradicted the democratic phase and that it did "not serve our national security." The Brotherhood statement was issued despite warnings by Justice Minister Yusuf al-Mubayyidin and Military Attorney-General Muhammad Mango against "interference" in the court proceedings so as not to influence the court's verdict or public opinion. Interference, they said, is punishable by law.

'American Finger' Seen in Trial

LD0611210892 Tehran IRNA in English 1616 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] Athens, Nov 6, IRNA—A group of Jordanian deputies from Islamic, nationalist and leftist factions are to hold a gathering outside the parliament in Amman Monday to press for the release of two colleagues who are facing charges of treason, media sources from Amman told IRNA Friday. Islamist deputies Layth Shubaylat and Ya'qub Qirrish are facing charges of forming an illegal group called 'Shabab al-Nafir al-Islami' (Vanguard of Islamic Youth) [Islamic Mobilization Youth Organization—IMYO] to topple the monarchy and create an Islamic state in jordan. A state prosecutor has called for the death penalty to be imposed on the two deputies and on two other Jordanian traders for the same charges. The court is expected to announce its verdict on Tuesday. A number of deputies and trade union leaders in Jordan have written to King Husayn to release the popular and outspoken Shubaylat.

The sources told IRNA that an alleged Syrian witness whom the state prosecutor presented as a witness against the two deputies is in reality of Iraqi origin. His real name is 'Ali 'Abd-al-Amir al-Shakirji and he holds a dual citizenship of the U.S. and Germany and is currently living in Munich.

The state security court in Amman last month held a secret hearing of a Syrian witness named Yasin Ramdhan al-Yasin who alleged that he had handed the sum of 200,000 German Marks, which he said he had received from the Iranian presidency, to Shubaylat last year in April. Shubaylat has challenged the court to present the Syrian witness in an open hearing in the court.

Islamist observers in Jordan see an American finger behind the whole case. Both Shubaylat and Qirrish are staunch opponents of the peace talks with Israel, favour the complete liberation of occupied Palestine and backed Iraq during the Persian Gulf war. Both the islamist deputies have refuted all charges and say they are victims of political vendetta. The two are on a hunger strike since two weeks in protest against the way the trial was being conducted.

The four men were arrested in September in Amman. Charges against them include possession of explosives and weapons and attempts to undermine Jordan's ties with Iraq.

Iraqi Editor Urges Reporters To Help Lift Embargo

JN0911085992 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Nov 92 p 22

[Letter to AL-RA'Y Chief Editor Mahmud al-Kayid from Kamil al-Sharqi, chief editor of Baghdad ALIF BA' magazine]

[Text] AL-RA'Y has received a message from colleague Kamil al-Sharqi, chief editor of the Iraqi ALIF BA' magazine, in which he calls on the world conscience, human rights organizations, and all organizations and societies concerned with cultural and educational affairs to raise their voices and ask the United Nations, the Security Council, and the United States and its allies to lift the siege imposed on Iraq and the ban on printing materials.

AL-RA'Y, which has declared its solidarity with, and support for our brother colleagues in Iraqi newspapers and publishing agencies, joins its voice with all good and honorable voices in this world in demanding the immediate lifting of the siege to enable the Iraqi people to continue their contribution in the press, culture, and arts fields.

Following is the text of the letter:

Mr. Mahmud al-Kayid, AL-RA'Y chief editor,

I would like to address you as a colleague journalist who understands the issues relating to freedom of speech, the importance of the press in today's world, and relevant human rights issues.

Our magazine, ALIF BA' is suffering from several problems as a result of the siege which the United States is imposing on Iraq in the name of the United Nations. This siege has been going on for two and half years although the justifications for its imposition are totally over.

Before the imposition of the siege, ALIF BA' used to publish 170,000 copies per week and there was demand by readers to increase the number to 250,000. We intended to meet this demand by purchasing new printing machines capable of printing such quantities.

The 170,000 copies represent the highest circulation figure of any similar magazine throughout the Arab homeland. Regrettably, the siege, and the embargo on exports and imports from and to Iraq that followed, led to a cutback in the number of copies published weekly to 50,000 in order to continue publication of the magazine for as long as possible with the paper, ink, and other materials available.

If the siege continues much longer, ALIF BA' may have to cease publication as was the case with other Iraqi magazines and publications over the past two years.

Although we do not think there is any justification at all for the siege on Iraq, which includes food and medicines, we believe that the press is a humanitarian necessity and its necessary materials should not be subjected to any embargo or siege.

We, as journalists, should provide an example of our commitment to the freedom of speech and defend this freedom. We, in ALIF BA' magazine, urge you to join your voice with ours in calling on the United Nations and the United States to lift the siege on Iraq, particularly on materials which are related to the press, food, and medicines.

I take this opportunity to convey my sincerest respects to you.

[Signed] Kamil al-Sharqi, chief editor of ALIF BA' magazine

Bank Eases Restrictions on Foreign Currency

JN0811082792 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Statement by "a responsible source at the Central Bank of Jordan;" date not given]

[Text] In continuation of the Central Bank of Jordan's [CBJ] policy of gradually easing the restrictions imposed on foreign currency control; in light of the positive results of this policy in terms of rebuilding confidence in the Jordanian economy and the subsequent noticeable improvement in the Jordanian balance of payments, and the stability witnessed in the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar; and, in view of the steady increase in foreign currency accounts of residents and nonresidents, the CBJ has decided to take the following steps, which will ease currency restrictions on travelers in particular, and on invisible expenses in general. These steps amount to an almost full easing of restrictions, particularly since the amounts, the currency allowed to be transferred or taken outside the Kingdom, are aimed at meeting citizens' current expenditure needs, such as travel expenses, medical treatment expenses, as well as the expenses needed for educational purposes, pilgrimage, family support, etc.

With regard to nonresidents, whether they are Jordanians or foreigners, the CBJ would like to affirm that there are no restrictions whatsoever on their accounts. They may bring in any amounts they wish to deposit in their accounts, just as they can transfer or take out any amount from these accounts without having to report to or seek permission from the CBJ.

These steps are:

1. Residents are allowed to take out or transfer the foreign currency equivalent of 20,000 dinars in lieu of previous instructions, which permitted the transfer of the equivalent of only 10,000 dinars, to cover current expenditure invisible payments, such as travel, study, medical treatment, pilgrimage, stay abroad, family support, etc.

2. Banks and financial institutions are authorized to make the transfers and issue the necessary currency permits covering amounts needed to cover invisible expenses without asking their clients to produce any certification documents and without obtaining the prior approval of the CBJ. Explaining the reasons for making the transfers in question shall be deemed sufficient.

3. The CBJ will look favorably at transfer requests in excess of those mentioned above, if they are accompanied by supporting documents.

4. Whenever a nonresident foreign currency account is opened, proof of residence abroad shall be deemed sufficient. It will not be necessary for the person wishing to open such an account to obtain a certificate proving residence abroad from the embassy or consulate of the country in which he works.

The CBJ has notified licensed banks and financial institutions of these instructions, emphasizing that they shall take effect as of 8 November 1992.

Katyushas Fired at Israel; Israelis Respond

NC0911080892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Two salvos of Katyusha rockets fell in northern Israel last night, causing no casualties. AFP reported that the first salvo of rockets fell in two sectors close to the border with Lebanon: the first in the west, near the Mediterranean sea; the second, in the east, near Qiryat Shemona. The rockets caused fires and minor damage.

In a subsequent report, AFP said that another salvo of Katyusha rockets fell in northern Israel last night, causing no casualties. Military sources said that the Israeli army opened fire in the direction of the sources of the rocket fire. According to security sources in the south, seven Katyusha rockets were fired last night from southern Lebanon in the direction of Israel. Three of them fell in the Nahariyya area, causing no casualties. Israeli artillery in the border strip then shelled the villages of Zibqin, Majdal Silm, Bra'shit, and Qulaylah which face the central and western sectors and from which the rockets were fired. The shelling also was directed at Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, the outskirts of Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr and Mayfadun, and the al-Litani river basin.

The Israeli shelling was accompanied by Israeli helicopter activity over the areas covered by the shelling. The helicopters dropped flares, particularly over Jabal Safi, causing a number of fires. The Israeli aircraft also flew over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah regions, particularly over the villages of Kafra and Yatar, adjacent to the central sector of the security strip.

REUTER and AP reported that Israeli assault helicopters raided villages close to the eastern sector of the border strip. An Israeli helicopter carried out a raid on the al-Litani river basin area at 2330 yesterday. This was preceded by a similar raid on the same area at 2230.

Israel radio cited security sources as saying that they view with extreme gravity the firing of Katyushas at northern Israel.

Zalman Shoval, Israeli ambassador in Washington, held a series of contacts at dawn today with Edward Djerejian, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs. He asked that the United States pressure the officials in Damascus and Beirut to stop the firing of rockets at northern Israel.

Israeli Raid Kills 7

NC0811171292 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1655 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Israeli warplanes a short while ago resumed their mock raids over Iqlim al-Tuffah, firing flares over the Jabal al-Rayhan Hills and the al-Litani River. These mock raids began in the morning. The Israeli aircraft raided Hizballah positions in 'Ayn al-Tinah in western al-Biqa' in the afternoon, killing seven Hizballah members and injuring seven others. The raids destroyed a two-story building that Hizballah used as a military base, according to AFP.

This air raid, the first since 27 October, comes on the eve of the resumption of the seventh round of peace talks in Washington.

Hizballah Denounces Raid

NC0911083692 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Hizballah's Information Committee in al-Biqa' has issued the following statement:

Our kin and brothers in al-Biqa': The Zionist enemy has once again bared its criminal fangs, attacking us with its venom, killing our people, and wrecking their homes. The brutal and treacherous enemy loathes our pure brand of Islam and harbors nothing but ill intentions toward our people. It added another grim crime to its hideous record. The following four brothers fell martyrs while confronting the criminal attack: Dhu-al-Fiqar al-'Afi, Qasim Muhammad Yunus, Ahmad Ramih Ja'far, and 'Abbas 'Awdah.

We congratulate the imam of all times [al-imam al-hujjah], may God hasten his arrival, and the guardian of the Muslim cause ['Ali Khamene'i] on the martyrdom of these brothers. We call on our kin to participate in their funeral procession, which will start from Imam 'Ali Mosque at 0900 today.

Hizballah's deputy al-Haj Muhammad Yaghi commented on yesterday's Zionist raid, saying: We are a people committed to a life of pride and dignity; we reject humiliation and subjugation. Martyrdom, according to our faith, is a major objective to which we aim. Death machines will not intimidate us; modern U.S. planes will not break our spirit. The repeated Zionist attacks are an expression of the U.S.-backed Zionist policy that aims at exterminating an entire nation in order to control their land.

Buwayz Wants U.S. To Be 'Fair Arbiter' Under Clinton

NC0611130992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Comment by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz in Beirut on 6 November—recorded]

[Text] Bill Clinton's victory has two aspects, the first being an internal U.S. aspect, which does not concern us. The American people have chosen the person they believe qualified to lead the United States. This is their choice. We wish the new President success in leading the United States. The other aspect concerns U.S. foreign policy. The United States is now a giant, leading the world in international issues. We hope President Bill Clinton will give the United States the role of a just and

fair arbiter, which it must play. Therefore, he should see to it that the UN resolutions are implemented, restoring to international legitimacy its lost credibility.

Nothing Positive Seen in U.S. Regional Policy

NC0611144292 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council [HISC], has called on the government to gain the people's confidence. He said every minister in this government is a minister for the Lebanese people. We will judge and evaluate every official by his achievements, qualifications, and honesty. He added: We are awaiting action by the Chamber of Deputies first; then we will observe the government. In an interview, Shams-al-Din said that if the principle of separating authority [parliament holding some powers; the cabinet, others] is not implemented, the process of government will become corrupt and turn into chaos or tyranny.

Shaykh Shams-al-Din did not expect any positive aspects in U.S. policy in the region and warned that the region is not approaching stability. He said he does not expect anything good to emerge from the peace talks. In our opinion, Shaykh Shams-al-Din said, these talks are a framework to give legitimacy to the Zionist entity that usurped Palestine.

As for Lebanon, these talks cannot remove the Israeli occupation of the south. We refuse to give Israel new gains. He said there is no alternative to the resistance and its legitimacy. Shams-al-Din described the resettlement of Palestinians in Lebanon as a danger hanging over our heads in Lebanon and in the Arab world. He said they will fight resettlement out of loyalty to Palestine.

Commentary Hails Call for Jihad in Egypt

NC0911115792 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0650 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Station commentary: "Age of Faith Inspired by Imam Khomeyni"]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God. Tyrants and despots may wheel and deal for a while, but the day must come when divine justice will demean or smite them. Nimrud [legendary figure in Arab mythology], pharaoh, Stalin, Hitler, George Bush, and the shah of Iran are all history. There is no man or government in power that can ask a people to build it a ladder to heaven or an everlasting throne [borrowing from Koranic reference to Egyptian monarchs]. Death makes people equal and so does history. History has no place for those who fail to see the writing on the wall.

We live in a changed world. George Bush is not the only one who has been defeated and replaced. Russia's czar, Germany's Hitler, Iran's shah, and other rulers have all gone.

We record these facts and write about Imam Khomeyni's era as we listen to news of Muslims who are defending themselves to the death in Sarajevo, where Muslims, in what appears to reflect direct assistance from God, have just recorded a spectacular win.

We record these facts and write about Imam Khomeyni's era as we read the slogans raised by the Muslims of Asyut [in Egypt]. Shaykh Tariq delivered a sermon in Asyut in which he said a corrupt and unjust government cannot be changed by ballots, but by bullets. Khalid al-Islambuli [who assassinated President Anwar al-Sadat] did so.

Yes, brother Shaykh Tariq, the ballot boxes in our time are doctored and cut to the measure of our midget rulers—rulers of apostasy, agents of the foreigners, oppressors of the people. Yes, Shaykh Tariq, this is the time for direct action, the time of jihad. Get on with jihad.

Until this day, Friday sermons throughout the Islamic world ventured only a timid call for resistance to the unjust authorities, spiced with occasional criticism of the policies of the unjust rulers who collaborate with imperialism. This is the first time the call for jihad has been issued openly and without mincing words. This is the first time the graffiti on an Asyut mosque—one that is popular among students—has read: It is time for jihad and armed resistance. This is the first time the graffiti has shown a Star of David accompanied with the words: Beware, Muslims, the Jews are coming.

Yes, Muslims of Lebanon, Egypt, Algeria, al-Hijaz [Saudi Arabia], and other areas: Beware, the Jews are coming. They are climbing on the bandwagon of the U.S. Republican or Democratic Party, entering the leadership of the French Socialist Party, and going into the cells of the disbanded Communist party from Moscow to Prague and East Berlin. In Berlin, the government yesterday made a decision according to which the German people will pay the Jews new reparation under the pretext of having committed massacres, Nazism, and anti-Semitism. Assess any ruler and look into his decisions in light of his relations with the Jews and whether his background and character will allow him to say, as the Jews once did: "God's hand is tied." [part of Koranic verse]

The Jews manipulate governments of our time through corruption, blackmail, bribes, dishonest media, and—in our region—by an intimidating and so-called invincible army. That army is being defeated every day in south Lebanon by roadside bombs and suicide bombers. That army is being defeated every day in occupied Palestine by Molotov cocktails, knives, and by peaceful protests. That army is being defeated every Friday by sermons that denounce in Beirut, Asyut, Algeria, and Sarajevo. Sarajevo will become a European Palestine, the curse of

which will haunt all those Western and Eastern despots who have sat back and watched it in silence.

For all the wounds, frustration, and tragedy in Islam, the age of Imam Khomeyni is afoot. Khomeyni's message is reverberating throughout Islam. Tehran is celebrating the day of challenging arrogance and storming the den of spies. Asyut is chanting the slogans of armed resistance. Algeria is mowing down the agents of America, those who have trampled on the decision of the Algerian people. As for Lebanon and Palestine, they are two lighthouses lit by the blood of martyrs and a people that daily grow more capable of controlling their destiny, fired by belief in the principles of the imam of strugglers [Khomeyni]. This is the age of peoples' power. Let the tyrants pack up, because history's dumping grounds are waiting.

Nasrallah Views Hizballah's Political Activity

NC0911101492 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 27 Oct 92 p 16

["Exclusive" interview with Hizballah Secretary General Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah by an unidentified correspondent during the former's visit to Tehran the second week of October; exact date not given]

[Text] [KEYHAN] The Hizballah of Lebanon participated in the recent parliamentary elections in Lebanon and won a considerable number of seats. What was the objective behind Hizballah's participation in the elections and in going to the parliament?

[Nasrallah] The issue of our participation in Lebanon's parliamentary elections was carefully studied and assessed in the various decision-making institutions, from the Executive Committee to the Political Office and the Central Council. We studied all the pros and cons. In view of the conditions in Lebanon and the developments taking place in this country within the context of regional incidents, we deemed it necessary to participate in the parliamentary elections and to strive to enter the new parliament.

Hizballah has stated some objectives it intends to fulfill with its entry into the parliament.

First of all, in view of the fact that the Hizballah is a jihad movement and has placed the struggle against the Zionist enemy at the top of its agenda, it considers it its duty to support the Hizballah's jihad operations and resistance against the Zionists through various "political, propaganda, social, and formal" means. Also, the presence of Hizballah deputies in the Lebanese parliament will lead to political and moral support for the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon.

As you know, efforts to reach a compromise are under way in the region and the peace talks are being continued. With its presence in parliament, Lebanon's Hizballah will try to bring Lebanon out of these talks. Here I deem it necessary to point out that if an agreement is signed between the Lebanese Government and the Zionist enemy, it will not be official unless it is approved by parliament. Therefore, by its presence in parliament, Hizballah will strongly confront any agreement with the Zionist enemy and the approval of such an agreement by the Lebanese parliament.

Thus, the main objective behind our participation in the elections is to continue the Islamic resistance and confrontation with the Zionist enemy.

The next objective is the abrogation of the political rule of the Maronites; in other words to abrogation of political denominationalism. This is the most important element leading to corruption in the political and social life of Lebanon. In parliament, we will try to wipe out and uproot political denominationalism from Lebanon. The only way to do this is through parliament. One of the special characteristics of the new parliament is that it has the authority to abrogate political denominationalism on the basis of the Constitution.

The third Hizballah objective is to struggle against oppressive laws that have been approved by the Lebanese parliament to the detriment of the oppressed and the deprived classes. Hizballah will try to introduce and approve laws that will better serve the deprived and oppressed people of Lebanon.

These are the three points that form the major pivot of the Hizballah's efforts.

[KEYHAN] How hopeful are you that this plan will succeed?

[Nasrallah] We will seriously strive to fulfill these objectives throughout the Lebanese parliament's upcoming term.

[KEYHAN] Hizballah's victory in Lebanon's parliamentary elections sparked off various reactions on the local, regional, and international levels. How are you reacting to these?

[Nasrallah] The party's victory was natural for the people of Lebanon. The extent of this victory was foreseen by all the active political and popular forces on the Lebanese scene. These forces reached the conclusion that Hizballah would win in the elections.

As for the international and regional scenes, if you look at the international press you will see that they did not expect this outcome. They thought that Hizballah was a military and religious organization without any popular backing. When they saw Hizballah's decisive victory in the elections, however, they realized the depth of its popular backing.

[KEYHAN] As was foreseen, all the Maronite forces, both the Phalangists and their militia forces and traditional Christian personalities, boycotted the elections. What is their situation now?

[Nasrallah] The alliance of Christian forces in Lebanon, which was counting on the Christian population and had called on them not to participate in the elections, is now in a state of confusion. This confusion is obvious. They do not know how to react to the fact that Hizballah has found it way into parliament. Even before the elections, however, they lacked a uniform stance.

At any rate, healthy elections were held and its outcome was accepted internationally. However, this acceptance varied. The Phalangist Party and forces were among the major groups that opposed the elections and are now opposing the results. Both the leaders and the followers of these forces are feeling practically helpless and are convinced that they have reached an impasse. The Maronites were recently seeking a way out of this impasse. The opposing stance of the Maronites is exaggerated and based on a series of calculations that they have made internally.

[KEYHAN] The Lebanese people are living through an acute economic crisis. What plans do you have to improve the economic situation?

[Nasrallah] The main reason behind the economic disorder in Lebanon is political. We know that constant efforts are made to prevent economic assistance from being given to Lebanon. Some countries that have helped Lebanon previously are not extending assistance now on the pretext that some of Lebanon's political stances do not conform with their positions, especially because of the special relations that exist between Lebanon and Syria. Also, Lebanon's economic crisis is linked with a series of local policies. For example, the political and administrative corruption in Lebanon plays a major role in this economic crisis. Therefore, we can do a lot to cure this economic crisis through political means. In other words, we should first put our domestic political situation in order. On the foreign level, it seems that it will be difficult for us to improve our economic situation through foreign assistance because foreigners are only willing to help Lebanon under the following conditions: First, if Lebanon signs a peace agreement with Israel; second, if Lebanon severs its unity and links with Syria; and third, if Lebanon completely surrenders to U.S. and European policies.

On the domestic scene, we are trying to fight the political and administrative corruption in the Lebanese Government. Fighting this corruption and finding cures to this crisis will undoubtedly help improve the economic situation of the Lebanese people. As for other economic plans, I believe that by approving competent laws in parliament we can serve the interests of the majority of the deprived population. The laws approved during the past terms of parliament only serve the interests of the wealthy and influential.

[KEYHAN] You mentioned foreign assistance. During the last couple of years it was said that the if the process of Islamic Resistance was stopped and the Western hostages were released foreign assistance would be extended. Now that the Hizballah has entered parliament, how much chance is there that foreign countries will resume their assistance to Lebanon?

[Nasrallah] Let us think realistically. The existence of Islamic Resistance in Lebanon is only part of Lebanon's problems. Not all of Lebanon's problems are linked with Islamic Resistance. Blaming the Islamic Resistance for all of Lebanon's problems and saying that it should stop so that foreign assistance can begin is incorrect. The foreigners are demanding more concessions from Lebanon. They not only want the anti-Zionist Islamic Resistance to stop, but they want Lebanon to sign a peace pact with the Zionist enemy. They want the Lebanese Government to crush social freedoms. As I previously said, they want Lebanon to sever its special relations with Syria. They are demanding much in return for economic assistance. I stress that even if Islamic Resistance halts its anti-Zionist operations, foreign countries will never help Lebanon. They used to tell Lebanon that the conditions for the resumption of foreign assistance was the release of the foreign hostages. Now that these hostages have been released, we see that they are putting forth new conditions.

[KEYHAN] The question that is now being asked is if, with its entry into parliament and the political scene, Hizballah will continue to preserve its stances as resistance force or if it will cohere with the framework of Lebanon's state institutions.

[Nasrallah] The answer to this question is written with the blood of the martyrs and with the struggles of the mujahidin—mujahidin who tainted the land of southern Lebanon with their blood shortly after the elections and the Hizballah's victory. I point out that after the elections, mujahidin of the Islamic Resistance carried out extensive anti-Zionist operations along the border. This was unexpected by the Zionist enemy. The Zionist regime's resistance held an extraordinary session to study the dimensions of these operations, which have continued up to the last few days. With these extensive operations, Hizballah wants to prove to its naive foe and its anxious and concerned friend that Hizballah was a jihad movement before the elections and will remain a jihad movement after the elections. Confrontation with the occupation of southern Lebanon constitutes a basis of the firm beliefs of Hizballah. The liberation of the occupied territories in southern Lebanon can be achieved if we intensify the jihad, the Islamic Resistance, and the anti-Zionist operations. This belief cannot be altered in parliament or outside. We have always said that we will remain steadfast on our stances as a jihad and resistance movement and that the fight against the Zionist enemy will remain at the top of Hizballah's agenda.

In addition to this, we will not neglect to search for solutions to improve the social, political, and administrative situation, as well as the search to improve the means of livelihood of our people and we will strive

toward this end. We will never give up Islamic Resistance. We are ready to give up parliament and to disregard everything else. But we are not ready to accept the least bit of harm to our Islamic and anti-Zionist resistance. We believe that our presence in parliament serves our future and current objectives. The continuation of Islamic Resistance is linked with the fate of the Lebanese people and the people of the regional. We will not give up resistance under any circumstance.

[KEYHAN] Lebanese personalities have made some contradictory statements recently on the permanent settlement of tens of thousands of Palestinians in Lebanon and on granting them Lebanese identity cards. In view of the fact that the issue of Palestinians residing in Lebanon forms the depth of the anti-Zionist struggle, does Hizballah agree with their permanent settlement?

[Nasrallah] Hizballah categorically opposes the permanent settlement of Palestinians in Lebanon because we see it as a plot to weaken the Palestinian issue. If the Palestinians and non-Palestinians agree to the permanent settlement of the Palestinians in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, or any other Arab or Islamic country, this will mean giving up Palestinian territory and handing it over to the Zionists. We should not accept this plan. Hizballah has clearly stated its stance on the settlement of Palestinians in Lebanon. I do not think that any Lebanese officials have announced their agreement with this plan.

[KEYHAN] It is said that if Hizballah participates in Lebanon's political rule, it will have to retreat from some of its positiors and take a series of political observations into consideration. How true is this?

[Nasrallah] This depends on Hizballah's determination, decisions, programs, and modus operandi and in the way in which roles and responsibilities will be distributed. In the past, we have had extensive political activities with some political parties, groups, and individuals in Lebanon and we have created institutions dealing with social and cultural affairs and with services. Thus, we have resorted to extensive popular activities. These steps have not had any impact on weakening the Islamic Resistance but have complemented it. Hizballah deputies who have been elected to parliament will try to strengthen the resistance movement. This is linked with Hizballah principles, beliefs, management, and efforts. We will in no way distract from our principles and beliefs. If we want to participate in any political activities and alliances in the future, the objectives and interests of Islamic Resistance will form the epigraph of these activities. I stress that we are fully confident in our activities and in our way of thinking as far as this is concerned.

[KEYHAN] Former Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz called on the Islamic Resistance to harmonize its activities with the Lebanese Government. How is Hizballah adapting its efforts with this call?

[Nasrallah] Hizballah insists on its stances and stresses that the Lebanese Government should harmonize its activities with the Islamic Resistance. Unfortunately since the government and rulers of Lebanon are not popular in nature, they do not care about the people. When a country is aggressed by another country, the government of the aggressed country seeks the assistance of its resistant people and supports and attaches importance to its people. Unfortunately, the rulers of Lebanon do not understand the greatness and value of this nation and of the Lebanese mujahidin when it comes to various situations and responsibilities. We sent a message to the Lebanese resistance [as published] through Lebanon's press and mass media and asked them what positive step they have taken for Lebanon's freedom, in supporting the resistance, and for the Lebanese nation. We asked what the outcome of their political and diplomatic efforts have been. All facts and analyses underline the fact that the government is dutybound to support the Islamic Resistance and place arms at its disposal and support the resistance of the people in southern Lebanon. The Lebanese Government is dutybound to propound the problems of the refugees of the south, of the Lebanese captives, and of the people who are shouldering a heavy responsibility vis-a-vis the Zionist enemy at international organizations and forums and to reflect these problems in the press and mass media. The government, however, is obstructing the Islamic Resistance's activities and speaking of restrictions. This is a negative approach. The objective behind Faris Buwayz's call was to impede the resistance in playing its basic role. Hizballah deputies in parliament will demand that the government harmonize with the Islamic Resistance and support its efforts.

[KEYHAN] Do you foresee the future Lebanese Government supporting the anti-Zionist resistance?

[Nasrallah] This will depend on the composition of the government and the head of the cabinet. We hope the resistance will extend to include all of Lebanon, and we will strive to make this the case.

[KEYHAN] Do you think once the occupied border strip in southern Lebanon is liberated Hizballah's duties will end?

[Nasrallah] From the strategic point of view, Hizballah does not recognize Israel's existence. Even if the Arab world, the Islamic world, and all the people of the world recognize a nation known as Israel, we will never do so. The right of the Palestinians to return to their true homeland is canonical, legal, and historic. This is one of our major, political, and strategic stances. If the Zionist enemy retreats from the occupied territories in southern Lebanon, we can alter our tactics and methods based on the conditions that exist at that time. The liberation of Palestine is not the duty of the Lebanese; it is the duty of all Muslims. We are carrying out our duties as part of the Islamic ummah.

Qaddumi Leads PLO Delegation to Damascus

Meets With al-Shar'

JN0711190192 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Sana' al-Imam dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and his delegation held a long four-hour meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Qaddumi said his talks with al-Shar' centered on the latest development represented by a new U.S. administration with well-known inclinations, as Qaddumi put it.

Qaddumi noted that during his meeting with al-Shar', he discussed ways of reaching a unified stand by the cordon states to serve the peace process and the basis on which it was established.

Concerning Clinton's promises to declare Jerusalem the capital of Israel, Qaddumi said that Clinton's statements came in the wake of the U.S. election and that the new administration cannot be understood except through the peace process which the United States is sponsoring.

Answering a question by Monte Carlo, Qaddumi said an 'Arafat's trip to Damascus does not present any problem because Syria is the Palestinians' second homeland, that it is open to them, be they citizens or officials. He also affirmed to us that he has never lost optimism, which characterizes the Palestinian diplomacy, but he ruled out any tangible progress in the upcoming round of talks because of Israel's intransigence.

Qaddumi categorically rejected the self-rule principle and accepted the transitional period under international supervision.

As to the length of his visit to Damascus, Qaddumi said that this is contingent on Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam's return from his tour and that, meanwhile, the delegation will try to meet the largest possible number of Syrian officials to coordinate stands.

Observers in Damascus do not think that Qaddumi's visit is paving the way for a future visit by Yasir 'Arafat to Damascus.

Parties Call for Unified Stand

JN0811192892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Damascus—Syrian-Palestinian talks, led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, concluded this afternoon. The talks were attended by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; PLO Executive Committee members Shafiq al-Hut and Abu-Mahir [Muhammad Ratib Ghunaym]; and Mahmud al-Khalidi, director of the Damascus PLO Office.

During the meeting, the PLO delegation presented remarks about the draft Jordanian-Israeli agreement and its impact on the Palestinian-Israeli issue in particular and other issues in general. It was agreed to contact the Jordanian brothers to further explore matters and hold consultations with them.

The two sides made a general assessment of the current Arab situation and its impact on the Arab parties involved in the peace talks, especially in light of the results of the U.S. elections and the continued U.S. role in pushing the peace process forward and making it successful.

The two sides agreed on the need to crystallize a unified Arab stand now more than ever, adhering to international legitimacy; and seeking a comprehensive solution based on UN resolutions and the land for peace principle.

Both sides expressed their strong belief that a peace agreement not predicated on Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories cannot succeed and be sustained. The Palestinian side expressed appreciation for Syria's firm pan-Arab and national principles and stressed the importance of coordination between the Syrian, Palestinian, and other Arab sides.

They also agreed to contact the Lebanese, Jordanian, and Egyptian foreign ministers to set a date for the upcoming coordination meeting in Beirut, following the seventh round of the peace talks in Washington.

Khaddam Receives Qaddumi

JN0911145992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and Shafiq al-Hut and Abu-Mahir Ghunaym, members of the PLO Executive Committee, at 1130 this morning.

Talks focused on recent developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict, the political settlement, and the importance and benefits of coordination among Arab parties.

Clinton Said Not To Want Peace Talks Delayed

JN0811114292 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Damascus, 8 Nov (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN issued here today has criticized Israel's attempts to cast doubts about the possibility of achieving results before U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton takes office. The paper asserts that the rulers of Israel do not wish to see a comprehensive settlement of the conflict in the region achieved.

In its editorial, TISHRIN believes that the new U.S. president does not want the peace process delayed, nor

will he be harmed by any progress in the Washington talks. The paper remarks that only Israel is placing obstacles and wasting time.

The paper indicates that the rulers of Israel have not given up their territorial ambitions, as evidenced by the Israeli economy minister's call for buying a part of the Golan Heights, without withdrawal from which no peace can be achieved. The paper emphasizes that the Golan Heights are a cherished Syrian Arab territory, and that there will be no relinquishment of one inch of the Golan Heights, Jerusalem, or any other Arab territory, and that there will be no solution or peace without the return of the Golan Heights and the entire occupied Arab territories and enabling the Palestinian Arab people to exercise their right to self-determination.

The paper stresses that the Arab position during tomorrow's talks will be the same as during the previous rounds of talks—a position that adheres to a comprehensive solution on all fronts and the return of the Arab territory occupied in 1967 and 1982 and rejecting any compromise in this regard.

Concluding its article, the paper says that when the Arabs head for Washington and stress their pan-Arab constants, they in fact reaffirm to the world their desire for a genuine peace and their undoubted quest for it. They also place the international community before its responsibility toward the implementation of its resolutions and supporting the principles of right and justice.

Radio Demands 'Unbiased' U.S. Role in Peace Talks

JN0711164392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Two days before the resumption of the bilateral peace talks in Washington, President Bush's government reiterated the U.S. commitment to advance the Middle East peace process. Meanwhile, quarters close to U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton announced that a special envoy will be dispatched to follow the talks closely. It goes without saying that the fate of the Middle East peace process is contingent upon the United States keeping its promises and also upon its making persistent efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement in the region. The Middle East peace process is not only relevant to the Middle East region. Indeed, it affects the interests of several world states. And because the peace process is extremely important, the United States must cooperate with the parties concerned and act as an honest arbiter. It must be committed to the principles upon which the peace process was based: to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in our region in accordance with the formula of land for peace and Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

President Bush's government condemned the Israeli settlement policy and repeatedly stated that settlement activities are the antithesis of peace. Hence, it is extremely important for President Clinton's administration to espouse the same position. Indeed, this administration is required to take clearer and firmer positions, showing further commitment to international law and to international principles and resolutions, as well. Occupation is unacceptable in all creeds and charters. Likewise, human rights violations are unacceptable. All peoples of the world must have the right to self-determination, free from terrorism, oppression, and torture. The ordeal that has been plaguing the Palestinian people and our kinfolk in the occupied Arab territories must prompt scrupulous people to condemn occupation and its practices and secure by all means Israel's compliance with the relevant UN resolutions.

One year has passed since the start of the Washington talks, and there have been no results worth noting. During the first phase of the talks, former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir rejected any talk of withdrawal from the occupied territories or of the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights. He asked the Arabs to succumb to the Greater Israel plan. In the same vein, during the second phase of the talks, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin pursued a policy of prevarication and procrastination. He spoke of partial withdrawals in return for full peace; something which runs counter to the terms of reference spelled out for the Madrid conference and the Washington talks.

And to prevent the peace process from losing momentum and turning into routine talks, the U.S. Administration must play an honest and unbiased role in the peace process to uphold right and justice in the Middle East and make Israel respond favorably to the wishes of the international community regarding the establishment of comprehensive peace. For their part, the Arabs responded to the wishes of the international community when they displayed their complete willingness to bring about a genuine peace. Concerning Syria, it submitted constructive and balanced proposals that were well received by all political quarters. It must be emphasized that peace in the Middle East will never be established unless Israel withdraws from the occupied Arab territories and recognizes the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. These are the prerequisites for a settlement. Unless these prerequisites are met, there can be no settlement; and the ball, right now, is in the Israeli court.

New U.S. Government Urged To Keep Peace Pledges

JN0811191092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] The seventh round of talks is scheduled to resume in Washington tomorrow after a suspension due to the U.S. presidential elections that have carried the democratic candidate, Bill Clinton, into the White House. According to available facts, this new round will not

achieve any progress toward peace or even toward overcoming the obstacles blocking the peace process.

A year after the start of the peace conference in Madrid, Israel's positions and strategy are still the same, even though the language used by the Israeli negotiator has changed. Throughout the past year's peace talks, the Arabs have proved their concern for peace and advanced positive proposals based on the pillars of the peace process: the UN resolutions, especially Resolution 242 and the land for peace formula.

But Israel has offered nothing to convince us and the world that it actually desires peace. When it talks about withdrawal, it means a withdrawal from parts of the Golan rather than from the entire Golan; and when it talks about the Palestinian Arab people's rights it means administrative rule—which is no more than forming weak municipal councils to keep the Palestinian land and people under the Israeli occupation—the councils will gives Israel a legitimate and legal basis for its occupation of the Arab territories.

Israel does not talk about the implementation of Resolution 425 calling for Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon. The Israeli leaders—who used to exploit the time factor—have a new chance to prolong the talks, pending the formation of the new U.S. Administration. During this period, they will continue their maneuvers and will not offer proposals to end the current peace process stalemate. The Israeli foreign minister announced yesterday that Clinton's election will temporarily stall the peace process.

There is no doubt that Israel will now wager on and expect President-elect Clinton's administration to support its position in the peace process. Such support would translate into pressure on the Arabs to achieve a peace that would maintain Israel's superiority and enable it to continue its occupation of the Arab territories.

This means that Israel wants to prolong the U.S. bias that successive American administrations have demonstrated. We, as Arabs, do not demand that Washington be biased toward us. Rather, we demand that an American administration be a fair arbitrator and mediator because of its status as a superpower on the one hand and as a cosponsor of the peace conference on the other.

The peace process was launched after Washington made pledges and President Bush's administration declared its commitments. It is difficult for the peace process to achieve its stated goals of bringing about a just and comprehensive peace in the region unless the new U.S. administration announces its adherence to these commitments and pledges.

The Arabs, who sincerely entered the peace process, are continuing their endeavor to bring about a just and comprehensive peace. Under no circumstance or consideration will they relinquish their rights and lands recognized by international legitimacy and the UN resolutions, and included in the invitation extended to the concerned parties by the cosponsors of the peace conference.

The Arabs seek peace. This does not mean that the Arabs should pay the price of forgoing their land and rights. Peace cannot be established without recognizing the established decisions of the international community represented in the UN resolutions and the land for peace formula.

Afghanistan

'Sporadic Clashes' Reported in Kabul 7 Nov

LD0811140392 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Sporadic clashes and hostage taking between Leadership Council forces and Hezb-e Wahdat forces continued yesterday in Kabul, the Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reports from Kabul. No party has so far accepted responsibility for starting the fighting.

During the clashes and hostage taking a large part of Kabul suffered damage and there were many losses. Kabul's coalition administration has failed to give a positive and convincing response to Kabul's residents who demand an end to the series of attacks.

80 Killed During 'Intensive Fighting' in Kabul

LD0611152392 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0900 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] Serious clashes flared up between Unity Party and Supervisory Council forces in the Cinema-e Pamir region of Kabul city.

A Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reports from Kabul city that intensive fighting flared up between the two forces in the Cinema-e Pamir region of Kabul city. Heavy weapons were used during these clashes. Both sides received heavy losses of life and materials. The residential areas around the scene of fighting have been extensively damageds. Eighty people have so far been killed and dozens others injured.

Hekmatyar, Mojaddedi Agree to Open Kabul Route

BK0911101092 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 9 Nov 92 p 1, 8

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 8—Hezb-e-Eslami leader Golboddin Hekmatyar has given his conditional consent to open the supply routes of Kabul city, provided a joint commision is set up for the distribution of aid goods in Kabul.

A spokesman of the Hezb-e-Eslami announced here today that his party has agreed for joint commission of Afghan groups representatives who would supervise the distribution of the aid goods among the people of the city.

Hezb-e-Eslami has also put conditions for talks with the authorised delegation regarding implementation of the peace agreement for establishment of peace and security in Kabul by the Jehad Council of Mojahedin, replacement of government forces and deployment of Mojahedin forces, as well as consultation with all Mojahedin leaders in connection with the appointment of high ranking officials.

Hekmatyar has also agreed to continue to honour the cease-fired brought about by the Nangarhar Peace Council on the condition that the interim government will fully implement the cease-fire agreement. He has also said that the decisions of the Nangarhar Peace Commission should be implemented and all the armed groups be expelled from Kabul city.

Prof. Mojaddedi and Hekmatyar have also agreed that the security of Kabul city should be given under the control of the commanders of Kabul under the supervision of the Home Ministry, similary they have agreed that the government should not issue extraordinary decrees for appointing Governors and other high ranking officials. Furthermore, they have also demanded that the meetings of the leadership council should be convened as such place where all the Mojahedin leaders find it convenient to attend the meeting.

Dostam Requested To Sit on Top Leadership Council

BK0811152892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1449 GMT 8 Nov 92

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, Nov 8 (AFP)—An Uzbek leader said Sunday he had made a formal request to the government for militia strongman, General Abdol Rashid Dostam, to be represented on all major Afghan ruling bodies.

Hafizullah Sirat Taloqani, deputy leader of the religious Council for Jehadi Ulama of Afghanistan, said he had written a letter asking that Dostam or his representative sit on the Leadership Council, the country's top ruling authority.

The request is likely to inflame Pashtun hardliner Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e-Eslami faction, who opposes the presence of the former communist regime militia leader in Kabul.

The Leadership Council comprises the heads of the nine mojahedin resistance factions that fought a string of Soviet-backed communist regimes whose miltiary forces included Dostam's former Uzbek militia.

Dostam switched sides to the mojahedin in March, precipitating the fall of the former president Najibollah's regime.

Taloqani said the Uzbek general should be represented on all major decision-making bodies, including the commission preparing the upcoming Grand Assembly, or Shura, which is to choose a new Afghan leadership within six weeks.

Taloqani, speaking at Dostam's de facto political office in Kabul, said the request reflected the wishes of the people of the ten northern provinces represented by his religious council.

The council's authority overlaps with that of Dostam's Jumbish-e- Milli-Eslami-Afghanistan, a broad-based movement with both political and military departments.

The Jumbish's military wing now includes both former militias that fought on behalf of communist regimes and many mojahedin groups.

The Jumbish should be represented in Kabul because it is nationally and internationally recognised as a strong power, said Taloqani, who dismissed the predictable objections of Hekmatyar as insignificant.

"Today the security of the people of Kabul rests on the shoulders of Jumbish," he said.

In August, Hekmatyar subjected Kabul to a ferocious rocket bombardment over the issue of the continued presence of former communist militias in the capital.

"If the government had not signed the ceasefire with Hekmatyar, Jumbish would have swept him out of Afghanistan," said Taloqani.

He said his council had already received the support of Leadership Council member Sebghatollah Mojaddedi in seeking a Jumbish presence on the council and other governing bodies.

Mojaddedi, the first Afghan president after the mojahedin's April victory, has already appointed five Jumbish representatives to the Jehadi Council that he heads, Taloqani said.

But the Jehadi Council, now 51 strong, is not regarded as an influential political body and has been largely inactive during Mojaddedi's long absence from Kabul recently, local sources said.

Government officials close to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani said no request for Dostam's representation at the highest levels had yet been received.

Dostam Spokesman Says Hekmatyar Blockading Kabul

LD0711180492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] The head of the Cultural Office of the Movement of the North of Afghanistan [title as heard], affiliated to General Dostam, gave an interview to an IRNA correspondent in Kabul today. He said: In accordance with the request of Rabbani, the head of the interim Afghan Government, we have withdrawn some of our forces from Kabul but, despite our action, Hekmatyar's forces have unfortunately not withdrawn from their positions. By blocking the Jalalabad, Kabul, and Khost roads, they are preventing the supply of food, fuel, and medicine to Kabul.

In connection with the establishment of the Council for Reconciliation and Settlement with the aim of selecting the future head of the Afghan Government, he said: The Movement of the North of Afghanistan has no candidates for this post. Gen. Dostam will support any figure chosen who respects the rights of all the Afghan people.

Gen. Dostam's spokesman in Kabul also supported the position of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami on the revolutionary role of women in an Islamic society. He stated: Within the framework of maintaining the stipulated criteria, Islamic women can play a role and have a part in Afghanistan's social and political arena.

Defense Official Meets Jihadi Commanders

LD0711170792 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Esteemed Mohammad Yunes Qanoni, head of education, training, and political affairs of the Ministry of Defense of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met commanders of the various Jihadi formations in Bagrami, Khak-e Jabar, and Sorobi districts in his office this morning.

At this meeting Qanoni spoke about security issues along the highways and other regions, and briefed the commanders on the objectives of the Islamic State. These commanders then expressed their full readiness to assist in the consolidation of the Islamic State and the restoration of security on highways, in particular along the Sorobi-Kabul highway. They promised full cooperation in the creation of a fraternal atmosphere and the securing of public tranquillity. They also said that anyone attempting to put a wedge between our Muslim and mojahed nation in the name of tribe, language, or religion will be given a resolute and crushing reply.

Iranian Food, Medical Aid Arrives in Kabul

LD0711102192 Tehran IRNA in English 0701 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 7, IRNA—A new consignment of Iranian humanitarian assistance for the Afghan people arrived in Kabul airport aboard a C-130 aircraft Friday. The aid package included 1,000 blankets and a large amount of food and medical aids which were delievered to the Afghanistan Red Crescent Society.

Some 1,350 tons of foodstuff, medicine and other relief assistance aboard 93 aircraft have been transported to Afghanistan since the victory of mojahedin in Afghanistan last March.

Commerce Minister-Led Delegation Leaves for Iran

LD0711115992 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] A delegation of experts of the Ministry of Commerce headed by Dr Zabihollah Eltezam, first deputy minister of commerce, left Kabul for the Islamic Republic of Iran to finalize talks on the document of understanding previously concluded regarding the bank

credit of $50 million to the Islamic State of Afghanistan. A responsible source said told BAKHTAR that during the visit to Iran by esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, the Iranian side agreed to put $50 million banking credit at the disposal of the Islamic State of Afghanistan to be used for the purchase and import of essential goods such as wheat, gasoline, and so on. The source added that the purchase and import of essential goods will soon take place after receiving this sum of credit. The prices of essential goods will therefore come down in the country and commodities will be distributed to coupon-holders.

On the other hand, anxiety among our people concerning the arrival of winter [words indistinct] (?will be removed).

Rabbani Meets With UN Official in Kabul

LD0811152192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1400 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Esteemed Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairmnan of the Leadership Council and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, received Colonel Lonan, military advisor to the UN Secretary General in Afghanistan and Pakistan, in the Golkhan Palace for talks this morning.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reported that during the meeting the two sides discussed the resumption of the UN's activities in Afghanistan and the securing of international aid for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

India

Sir Creek Boundary Talks With Pakistan End

BK0611145492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] The fifth round of India-Pakistan talks on the Sir Creek [maritime boundary] issue concluded in New Delhi today. According to a joint press release, the two-day discussions were conducted in a cordial atmosphere. The two sides had a detailed and useful exchange of views on the various issues involved. They agreed to continue the discussion at Islamabad on a mutually convenient date.

The Indian side to the talks was led by Mr. Nareshwar Dayal, additional secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, and his counterpart, Mr. Khalid Salim, heading the Pakistan side.

Islamabad Says Talks 'Useful'

BK0611153492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] The fifth round of India-Pakistan talks on the Sir Creek issue concluded in New Delhi today. The two sides agreed to continue the talks in Islamabad at a mutually convenient date. According to the joint press release, the two sides held detailed and useful talks on various matters concerning this issue. The Pakistani delegation was led by Khalid Salim, the additional secretary of foreign affairs, while the Indian side was headed by Nareshwar Dayal, the additional secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

Steps Taken Against Pakistan TV 'Propaganda'

BK0711085092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] The centre has taken effective steps to counter the anti-Indian propaganda over Pakistani television. This was stated by the deputy minister for information and broadcasting, Dr. Girija Vyas, in Jaipur yesterday. Participating in a meet-the-press program, she said high-powered TV relay centres will be set up in all the border districts in the country.

Ties With PRC, Border Situation Viewed

BK0711141992 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Ajay K. Roy commentary]

[Text] The fifth round of meetings of the Sino-Indian Joint Working Group [JWG], which concluded recently in Beijing, has brought the two countries quite closer to evolving a comprehensive package of confidence-building measures designed to help them [words missing due to break in transmission] border issue in a tension-free atmosphere. They have now really started moving toward addressing their vexed [words missing due to break in transmission]

Compared to the earlier four rounds of talks, the Beijing meet was more businesslike, constructive, and meaningful. It went straight into the details of the border problem pertaining mainly to the terms of reference and timeframe, measures to be taken to inch towards the substantive intricacies involved, totality of Sino-Indian ties, and the emerging realities of regional and international situation. Such a step-by-step approach is the most sensible thing to do as the conflicting territorial claims of the border are not likely to be settled in a hurry. The very nature of the complexities involved precludes the possibility of any spectacular resolution of the issue.

Ever since 1988, when the JWG was set up and when the late Rajiv Gandhi opened political parleys with the Chinese leadership, New Delhi and Beijing have been patiently pursuing a solution of the border question and maintenance of peace and tranquility along the frontier till the objective is achieved. Such sustained dialogue and visits by senior leaders of the two countries like that of Mr. Li Peng in December last and Mr. R. Venkataraman in May this year have created conditions that encourage the belief that India and China are moving closer toward a resolution of the border irritant. As a matter of fact, they did so at the Beijing JWG meet. There was growing willingness to galvanize the whole

process of border talks. The JWG, for the first time, met twice in the same year, reflecting the importance that both sides attach to the work of the group. Possibly for the first time, there was pointed reference to the Line of Actual Control, denoting an advance in the thinking on the need to end the prolonged uncertainty in the two sectors where the two armies confront each other in uneasy postures. The Chinese offered some adjustments in the western sector in return for a similar Indian realignment in the east. There is nothing new in this. But what is significant is that India is not rejecting the idea of a quid pro quo from the start.

Now prepared to move out of the old mindset, India has asked for further details. This signals that new Delhi hopes to be able to get around the 1962 parliamentary resolution to recover every square inch of territory and negotiate a deal on a far more flexible basis. This shift in the Indian position reflects a change in the national mood. One of the questions both have addressed is the reduction of troops along the border both on the eastern and western sectors. This will be a major confidence-building measure and will greatly eliminate the risk of unintended conflict. Another effort has been for institutionalizing regular higher-level contacts between defense establishments. In fact, a beginning in this regard has already been made by arranging for meetings between area commanders according to a yearly schedule.

It was agreed at the Beijing meet that hotlines will be a logical extension of such contacts and should be initiated to reduce the danger of misperceptions about each other's intentions in respect of any moves either may make on the ground. Advance notification of large-scale movements or exercises will provide another safeguard. The two sides reached consensus on the expansion of border trade. There is already a point for such trade in the central sector, and the modalities for opening new points are to be worked out through diplomatic channels. It is expected that the new areas for border trade would be operational by the next JWG meeting to be held in Delhi in the first half of next year.

These meaures will, in all likelihood, be carried further, bringing the border dispute still nearer to solution during the future talks. The Sino-Indian dialogue has survived a sequence of political changes in Delhi and the post-triannum developments in Beijing, and now is the time to put it to greater use in both the regional and global arenas. There is special orientation in China's policy towards the ASEAN, with which India has acquired spectoral partner [observer] status. It is also laying more emphasis on having a working relation with Japan. More so, China wants stable relations with neighbors so that it can concentrate on maintaining economic growth at a high rate of 9 percent achieved in the 1980s. Despite the progress made towards the border question, it will take some time before Indian policymakers agree to let down their guard. But it will be counterproductive to let fears override common sense as this may jeopardize the process of steady search toward a solution of the cardinal issue in Sino-Indian ties.

BJP Calls for Safeguarding Nuclear Options

BK0811103892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP], has called for vigorous exercise of diplomacy to safeguard India's national interests and international relations. It said, while believing the principle of sovereign equality of nations, India can neither sacrifice its interests nor succumb to any compromise as far as the country's security is concerned. In a resolution, adopted on foreign policy, the national executive of the party, now in session in Bhubaneswar, said New Delhi should retain its nuclear options and simultaneously accelerate its program of developing missiles and rockets.

Thorium Used as Fuel in Kakrapar Nuclear Plant

BK0911021692 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 31 Oct 92 p 3

[Text] Bombay—For the first time the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has tapped the vast thorium resources in the country by using it as fuel for the initial core of a Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) at the Kakrapar Atomic Power Station-I, which went critical recently.

Stating this in his Founder's Day address at the BARC complex at Trombay here on Friday, the BARC chairman Dr. R Chidambaram said that the thorium bundles used would help achieve an "efficient power-flattening."

He pointed out that the loading of thorium into the power reactor would give valuable experience in the large-scale handling of the substance "which is going to play a major role in the Indian nuclear power programme in the future."

Dr. Chidambaram said that BARC was designing an advanced heavy water reactor system where inherent safety was derived through in-built neutronic and thermal hydraulic characteristics. "In this reactor a major fraction of energy would be extracted from thorium with minimum consumption of the plutonium driver fuel," he explained.

In the context of improved safety designs, he said that an Advanced Channel Inspection System (BARCIS) had been used in Pressure Heavy Water Reactors for in-service inspection of coolant channels enhancing the safety and reliability performance of the reactor.

A high-speed processing supercomputer has been made by BARC, using indigenous hardware. "The computer is one-fifth as fast as Cray and we are hoping to further increase the speed. This is a very significant breakthrough in the development of supercomputing systems and meets the high speed computing needs of scientists and engineers here and in other research and development institutions in the country."

The development of an alternative to the power-pellet route in the form of the Sol-Gel-Microsphere Pelletisation process for the fabrication of nuclear fuel of oxide, monocarbide and mononitride has eliminated radioactive dust hazards, noted Dr. Chidambaram. He said that the process was highly suitable for remote and automated fabrication, thus bringing down the personnei radiation exposure to a minimum.

This year saw the commissioning of a 'Sludge Hygenisation Research Irradiator' at Baroda for the cleaning of city sewage sludge. The first project of its kind in the continent, the experimental nuclear sewage reatment plant will treat half the waste of Baroda Municipal Corporation at full capacity. Its efficacy will determine whether the project will be extended to other cities in the country.

The Centre has also developed an aerial gamma spectrometry system to assess the deposition and dispersion of radioactive material over wide areas. "The system was used by the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station and establishes our capability to quickly assess and map radioactive contamination over large areas," remarked Dr. Chidambaram.

Based on the technology provided by the BARC, he said that a few thyristor chopper systems for the control of electric multiple units (EMUs) of suburban trains had been fabricated and handed over to the Railways. The use of the equipment enables smooth and efficient speed control of suburban trains resulting in a saving of about 25 per cent—i.e. 66 million units of electricity per year by the Central Railways alone—of the total energy consumption.

Elaborating on the non-power applications of nuclear energy, Dr. Chidambaram said they they had developed high-yielding varieties of ground-nut and black gram which had been released for cultivation in parts of Gujarat Maharashtra, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

Atomic Energy Commission chairman Dr. P. K Iyengar, whose message on the occasion was read out, as he was held up in Delhi, urged scientists to innovate more modern methods to ensure economic growth.

"While scientists may not like to attach importance to the economic principles which influence social progress, we have to accept the fact that these changes ultimately decide the pattern of growth and have a bearing on the development of science and technolgy itself," he observed.

He felt that scientists should not merely copy principles and experiences of other countries which, he said, often operated under totally different conditions.

23 Foreign Investment Proposals Approved

BK0711101492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] The government has approved 23 foreign investment proposals in cent percent [100 percent] export-oriented units and the small-scale sector. The proposals for software, electronics, food processing, medical equipment, chemicals, and petro-chemical sectors were recommended by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board. According to an official release in New Delhi, the meeting of the high-powered committee, which cleared the proposals yesterday evening, was chaired by the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh.

Inflation Rate Rises to 10.03 Percent

BK0811083492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] The rate of inflation computed on point-to-point basis has again reached double-digit figure after 13 weeks. For the week ended 24th October, the inflation rate went up to 10.03 percent from 9.08 percent in the previous week. The rate of inflation reached the lowest level of 7.4 percent during the week ended 12th September, but rose sharply following the hike in the prices of petroleum products. The official wholesale price index also recorded a rise of 0.3 percent. It went up to 231.5 during the week ended 24th October, from 230.8 in the previous week.

Foreign Investors Waiting for Further Reforms

BK0711131592 Hong Kong AFP in English 0151 GMT 6 Nov 92

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 6 (AFP)—Foreign investors have adopted caution as the watchword, waiting for India to take its open-market reforms further before they launch the hundreds of projects put on paper.

Leading the investment pack are the Americans, accounting for 192 million dollars of the 985 million dollars pledged in the first 10 months of 1992 and boosting Indian hopes of raking in billions more in future investments.

But much of the money is yet to come in, investors and officials say.

"Better wait now, seems to be the new slogan," said a U.S. business source citing the non-implementation of a bulk of the total of 1,102 projects put on paper this year by cash-flushed investors from 17 countries.

French and Japanese corporations have held back their horses saying "paradoxical parameters" in custom duty regulations, absence of infrastructure and lingering vestiges of protectionism made business unprofitable in India.

"Their hesitation is a matter of mystery... We have relaxed rules, made room for the investors to make a hit in India," said S.K. Mishra, chief of the state-run Indian Investment Centre.

Investors' interest in India was aroused last year when Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao dismantled four decades of state controls on most industrial and financial sectors and relaxed tax and partnership rules as part of his reforms.

Rao made the rupee partly convertible, promising full convertibility at a later date, and swept away a tight regime of licences to boost private enterprise and end the state's stranglehold on key sectors.

His government allowed 51-percent foreign equity, for the first time permitting majority shareholding for overseas investors.

The number of foreign proposals for projects soared to 950 in 1991 over 1990's 660 joint ventures, Mitra said, adding that the forcast for the next two years was that the Indian market would rake in "billions of dollars."

Other Indian officials, however, said it would be near impossible to say how many joint ventures launched after the new economic policies have actually gone on stream or would.

"We will wait and watch," said a Japanese investor, referring to the 61 Indo-Japanese collaborations inked during January-August as compared to 228 American, 142 German and 128 British joint projects launched during the period.

B.K. Sarkar, manager of the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India, the country's second largest financial house, said the reforms needed to be consolidated and taken further to inspire investor confidence.

A 35-million-dollar French joint venture to manufacture injectible polio vaccines was shot down by Rao's regime and communication giant Alcatel's 20-million dollar project to produce switching gear is yet to find a buyer.

"Customs duty is higher on components than on finished product, so the margin of profit is dismally low," said a French investor here, adding that a hefty 50-percent plus tax on profits by foreign firms was another deterent.

But despite his complaints and the fact that only 33 French firms inked ventures during January-August, negotiations to set up some multi-million-dollar joint projects were on, other sources said.

How many will materialise is under question.

"India will have to sort out its disputes over Intellectual Property Rights, end protectionism and improve the industrial growth rate before expecting higher dividends... We French are a cautious people," the investor added.

The Americans, however, are eyeing with interest an investment potential of 14 billion dollars in India's power sector, officials said, adding that 27 U.S. firms had queued up to install plants here.

A British and an Australian firm also hope for a slice of the power sector ventures, which under the liberalised laws permit investors to set up plants anywhere in India and 100-percent repatriation of dividends.

"There is a new realisation in India today of the useful role of foreign investment and competition as instruments of economic growth," said U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering while flagging off an Indo-U.S. venture last week.

He, however, urged New Delhi to "clearly explain its policies on entry and exit," which would enable unprofitable ventures to wind up and sack excess labour, guarantee protection to foreign investors, and announce its stand on the intellectual property rights.

"Policies which are clearly explained and consistently implemented will have to be an integral part of that effort," Pickering added.

Iran

Velayati Says 'No Intention' of U.S. Tjes

LD0711155192 Tehran IRNA in English 1213 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati says Iran has no intention of reestablishing ties with the U.S., severed since the 1979 victory of the Islamic revolution.

Commenting on the coming to power of the Democrats in the U.S. and whether the change of administration would affect relations between Tehran and Washington, Velayati told IRNA in an interview Saturday morning:

"During the history of the Islamic revolution and the life of the Islamic Republic, we have seen both the Democrats and the Republicans in power in the U.S. but as far as the Islamic Republic of Iran was concerned, there was not a major difference in their policies in the past—whether at the time of Mr. Carter in the beginning of the Islamic revolution or during the reign of the two presidents from the Republican Party after him. Washington's principled policy towards Iran has not changed..."

Asked about the likelihood of resumption of ties between Tehran and Washington after the victory of Bill Clinton, Velayati replied, "we have no intention to resume ties with the U.S."

In response to another question whether there was any connection between the arrest of an American citizen in Iran, announced on the day of Clinton's victory, and his election to the U.S. Presidency, Velayati said, "it could only be a coincidence."

The news of the arrest of Milton Meier, a U.S. businessman in Iran was announced by the Information Ministry on Wednesday, Nov. 4. The announcement levelled various charges against Meyer, 58, ranging from "illegal business transactions" to having "links with foreign intelligence services." Meier has also been identified as the brother-in-law of General Nassiri, the executed chief of the horrible intelligence service of the ex-Shah of Iran. The exact date of Meyer's arrest was not announced by the ministry, which said he had confessed to all the charges broughts against him.

On the impact of the Democrats' victory on the process of the so-called Middle East peace talks, Velayati said he did not think it would create a "serious and decisive" change in the issue of Palestine, unless the people of Palestine themselves decided so. "And this," he further stated, "cannot be done through holding negotiations of compromise."

The foreign minister said the continuation and spread of the struggle against the occupation of Palestine by the Zionists was the only solution to the problem. "And it is unlikely that the change of administration in the U.S. would necessarily result in a change in the attitude of its statesmen (towards this question)."

"The people of Palestine should restore their rights themselves and others, including Muslims and justice-seeking people of the world, should help them in this effort which demands a firm struggle."

On the question of Salman Rushdie and the demand by some Western countries to reduce his sentence, Velayati said, "there is no way to do so (to consider a commutation in the penalty). The verdict is an explicit Islamic verdict and no one can change it. There is no change whatsoever in the attitude of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding this matter. The judgment is the same passed by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni and valid."

Salman Rushdie, the Indian-born British author of the blasphemous novel "The Satanic Verses" has been sentenced to death by Imam Khomeyni for insulting the prophet of Islam (peace be upon him) and the sanctities of over one billion world Muslims.

Commentaries View New U.S. Aid to Israel

U.S. Policy Called 'Constant'

NC0711202492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Sources close to the White House have said that the U.S. Government has agreed to extend a $1.2-billion grant and a further $1.8 billion in the form of military aid to Israel in the current fiscal year. This aid is not connected with the $10-billion loan guarantees which Washington also has approved.

The recent aid to Tel Aviv will go to cover expenses incurred by encouraging immigration and housing Jewish immigrants from the former USSR. At first and after some disagreement surfaced with [former Prime Minister Yitzhaq] Shamir's government over the progress of the peace talks, the U.S. Administration refused to extend such a sum to Israel. That passing cloud quickly lifted after the Labor Party won the elections and Yitzhaq Rabin assumed power. Bush then voiced hope that the new Israeli Government would adopt a new position and announced his approval of the Israeli loan.

Certainly the U.S. refusal to extend the loan guarantees to his government helped increase domestic resentment for Shamir's policies against a backdrop of economic difficulties in Israel, notably rising inflation, unemployment, and living costs. These were the major factors behind Shamir's electoral defeat.

It is well known that the Israeli economy depends chiefly on Washington's generous aid. Since the 1970s, the Zionist regime has been getting an average $3 billion a year. This aid, huge in comparison to U.S. foreign aid to other countries, reflects the very special U.S.-Israeli ties which exist in the context of U.S. support for the entity that protects its interests in this region.

U.S.-Israeli relations are strategic relations. Strengthening them is a basic tenet of U.S. policy in times of war and peace alike. The United States seeks to enhance the Zionist entity's scientific, military, and economic structure through grants and by allowing it to participate in sophisticated scientific and military ventures such as the Star Wars project.

This aid clarifies the nature of the Washington-Tel Aviv strategic relationship. It is a U.S. policy constant regardless of changing presidents and White House administrations. The United States and other Western countries with designs on the region support Israel's expansionist policies in the Middle East and back the Jewish policy of immigration and settlement. The West, under U.S. leadership, seeks to turn Israel into an unrivaled regional military power.

U.S. Ties, Effect of Loans Viewed

LD0711230292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1939 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Sources close to the White House have reported that the American Government has signed the documents on grant of a gratis loan, worth 1.2 billion dollars, to Israel. According to the report America is expected to also extend 1.8 billion dollars in military aid to the Israeli regime during the current fiscal year. Reportedly this aid is in addition to the program under which Washington has agreed to guarantee a 10 billion dollars loan sought by Israel.

This loan, which has been sought by the Zionist regime to help absorb and settle the Jewish emigrants from the

former Soviet Union in the occupied Palestine, was initially postponed after temporary opposition by the Bush Administration to the policy of Yitzhaq Shamir, former prime minister of the Israeli regime, on the Middle East talks process. However, with the victory of the Labour party in occupied Palestine and the coming to power of Yitzhaq Rabin, together with the expression of optimism by the U.S. Government over the shift in the Israeli policy, payment of the loan was agreed to in time.

Non-payment of this loan during the tenure of Yitzhaq Shamir's Government, in view of the economic problems he faced, in a way added to the discontent among Israeli citizens over his domestic policy. Rising inflation and growing unemployment were among the constraints that played a role in Shamir's election defeat.

Israel's economy has constantly been strengthened through the injection of loans and financial aid by Washington. Statistics indicate that since the 1970s, Tel Aviv has annually received about three billion dollars in economic and military assistance from the United States. The volume of this aid is considerable, in comparison with the U.S. foreign assistance extended to other countries, and has led to the creation of ties with Israel that prove expensive for America. However, the main goal of these relations is to preserve the Tel Aviv regime in order to protect U.S. interests in the Middle East region. In the same connection, U.S.-Israeli ties, which on account of the situation of the Zionist regime in the region appear to be strategic and crucial, cover various levels of cooperation. These ties, both during the Cold War era and under the the present conditions, have constantly enjoyed special characteristics in view of Washington's scientific and technical aid to Israel. From the viewpoint of the U.S., grants of gratis economic aid and long term loans, and allowing the participation of Israel in giant military projects like the Star Wars program, concern Israel's position in the Middle East. In this regard, the issue, which has constantly been backed by the United States in practice—which has probably not been ignored by various U.S. presidents, irrespective of the party to which they may have belonged—is the assistance given to the Zionist regime in the enforcement of its expansionist policy in the Middle East region.

The absorption and settlement of one million Jewish emigrants from the former Soviet Union in Israel and the occupied lands, which are being carried out through loans and aid extended by the U.S. and its allies, point to only some of the protective steps taken by Washington and the West in relation to this policy. At the same time, U.S. Government officials consider themselves duty bound to turn Israel into a superior military power in the region.

Commentaries View Clinton Election Victory

Impact on Peace Talks Viewed

LD0811134492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1059 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] With U.S. President-Elect Bill Clinton's victory, the peace talks between Arab governments and Israel are likely to be interrupted because the George Bush administration will act as a lame duck cabinet and cannot actively interfere in the bilateral talks during the transition period until 20 January 1993, when Bill Clinton officially takes over.

However, there is a great deal of doubt whether the past policies of the U.S. Government in the Middle East peace efforts will continue. Of course, some observers believe that Bill Clinton's election slogans will be different than his actions after his election victory and the official start of his presidency. They also believe that his statements that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and that Syria supports terrorism and has occupied Lebanon will not reflect his practical policies after he officially comes to power.

Observers also state that, considering the end of the Cold War and the necessity for an American solution to the Middle East crisis, Washington's overall policy and strategic policy on the issue will not change, that America's new administration will continue the efforts of George Bush and James Baker, and that America's involvement in the talks will be more active.

Conversely, other observers refer to the opposing views of Democrats and Republicans. They say that Democrats are traditionally pro-Israel. They point to developments in the Middle East over the past few decades and their connection with America. They express the view that, if it had not been for the active intervention of Republican U.S. President Eisenhower during the three-pronged invasion of Egypt by Britain, France, and Israel after the nationalization of the Suez Canal, that war would not have ended quickly and the aggressor forces would not have stopped their onslaught. America did not want Britain, the old-world colonialist power, to rise and become America's equal.

Also, after the Israeli aggression against Lebanon in 1361 [ending 20 March 1983], the Reagan Republican administration suspended the implementation of the strategic pact with Israel and refrained from selling F-16 fighter aircraft to Israel for some time. It then introduced the peace proposal—known as the Reagan peace plan—which encountered immediate opposition from Israel, led by Yitzhak Shamir.

Ultimately, there is no doubt that George Bush's policies are one of the main reasons for the downfall of Shamir's government and Yitzhak Rabin's rise to power. With Bill Clinton's election, it is said that Israel will gain a better position in the bilateral talks and will be under less pressure from America to make concessions to Arab governments to continue the talks. In any case, bilateral talks in the next few months will not be very fruitful, and many Arab and Middle East statesmen are waiting to see who Bill Clinton will appoint to the State Department,

who his special envoy to the Middle East will be, and who will comprise the American delegation supervising the peace efforts.

Official on Clinton's Views

NC0811205292 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 2 Nov 92 p 16

[Text] The U.S. presidential elections are to be held tomorrow. This comes when the election campaign in that country has entered a sensitive phase and both Bush and Clinton are trying to throw one another out of the scene any way they can. But what was obvious from the very outset of the campaign was the decline in the Republicans' popularity—particularly that of Bush—among the American public. Most of the recent criticism by the Democrats and Clinton of Bush actually have remained unanswered, and the sharp blade of this criticism of Bush's foreign policy and his indifference to the economic and domestic situation in the United States have tipped the balance in Clinton's favor. According to latest polls, however, there is a small margin of difference between Bush and Clinton.

The most important question now is what foreign and domestic policies the Democrats will pursue if Clinton wins.

To answer this question, I went to the Foreign Ministry to meet with Vaezi, deputy foreign minister for Europe and America, and asked him what changes will take place in U.S. policy if Clinton wins.

Vaezi said: The policies of the Democrats and the Republicans both on the domestic and foreign levels are not precisely the same. Their policies are similar on some issues and vary on others. Vaezi said these differences and similarities also apply to the presidents and to the team that is selected to run affairs.

Today the United States is facing an economic recession and the American people's expectations for improvement in the economy and the fact that they are tired of a 12-year process dictate the need for change in America.

He added that the international situation, in view of the disintegration of the former Soviet Union and the death of a powerful pole, is such that the world today does not favor the existence of a powerful unipolar system and that definitely the world will not remain unipolar, especially when the leader of this pole is the United States.

Commenting on the policies the Democrats will pursue if they come to power, Vaezi said: If we look at the history of the era of Democratic rule in the United States, we can see that they paid more attention to domestic issues than foreign affairs. This does not mean that they were indifferent on foreign issues. No country can disregard foreign issues.

He pointed out that the criticism aimed by the Democrats and their leader, Clinton, at Bush is that the Republicans paid great attention to foreign issues and forgot domestic issues.

The Democrats say: If we face a serious economic problem and lack a strong economy, then we cannot act abroad as a superpower. Therefore, we should first become a superpower at home and then become one overseas.

Va'ezi said that the policies, views, and promises by the Democrats show that if they come to power, Clinton will focus more attention on domestic problems and less on foreign problems in the initial years.

The deputy foreign minister for Europe and America pointed out that the permanent policy of the Democrats has been to focus great attention on the so-called issue of human rights, and said: I foresee that if the Democrats go to the White House, because of their traditional support for Israel they will give rise to discontent among the Arabs and the Third World countries and will not have the apparently good relations that they had with these countries in the past. He added: Definitely the current apparent peace-seeking policy that the United States intends to create between the Arabs and Israel now will be continued if Clinton comes to power, and his policy will be one of moving closer to Israel and moving away from the Arabs.

On Clinton's policy on the Persian Gulf, Va'ezi said: The Democrats and Clinton have criticized Iraq's policies more than the Bush administration has, but they have not said anything about what they will do with Saddam.

On Clinton's policy on Iran, our deputy foreign minister for Europe and America said: He has not adopted a noteworthy stance on this issue. But his vice president, Al Gore, has criticized China for strengthening Iran's military structure and for the possibility of Iran gaining access to a nuclear weapon.

He pointed out that the Republicans did whatever they could against Iran and that there is nothing else Clinton can do other than pay attention to our demands and stances and end the hostile policies against Iran.

Clinton Support for Israel Noted

LD0611191592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1939 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Excerpts] With the release of the U.S. presidential election results, in which Bill Clinton from the Democratic Party has won over his rival George Bush, reactions from the Arab states and Palestinian figures and also the Zionist regime's officials on the event speak of hope and fear concerning the resumption of the Middle East peace process. [passage omitted]

In the midst of this process are the Palestinians in the occupied lands, which, referring to the American presidents' traditional policy on backing the Israeli regime, said that Clinton too will side with the Zionist regime against the Arab world.

It appears that the adoption of these stands is not unrelated to the type of posturings by Bill Clinton in the course of his election campaign. While assessing as effective the American Jews' votes in determining the fate of his election campaign, Clinton by declaring Beyt-ol Moqaddas (Jerusalem) as the permanent capital of the Israeli regime, in fact lent his maximum support to the Zionist rulers of Palestine. [passage omitted]

These reactions to the victory of the Democratic Party candidate, Bill Clinton, in the U.S. presidential elections are being expressed at a time when the seventh round of the Middle East peace talks is scheduled to be resumed in Washington on November 9.

Meanwhile, despite certain views on the influence of the Clinton victory in the talks process, and most probably to the detriment of the Arabs, political circles in the region believe that the consent of George Bush to grant 10,000 million dollars in loans to the Israeli regime, which was given prior to the start of the sixth round of the peace talks, and also his unfulfilled promises on enforcing the Security Council resolutions, do not constitute a subject based on which the Arab and Palestinian negotiators may be hopeful of success in the peace parleys. This is because as a matter of principle, the views of the American Government officials concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict and the position of Israel in the long term U.S. strategy in the Middle East have never been against backing Israel and favoring the Arabs.

Official Foresees 'Drastic' U.S. Policy Change

LD0711152592 Tehran IRNA in English 1449 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—An afternoon daily Saturday commented on the "shift of power in Washington" and predicted that U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf region was on the verge of a drastic change.

In a political analysis in today's "ETTELAAT", Majles Deputy for Tehran and Foreign Ministry advisor Mohammad Javad Larijani, wrote that major economic problems in the United States were reasons for George Bush's defeat in the November 4 presidential elections.

However, the main reason was distrust of the people in capability of the administration's's policy in removing economic bottlenecks to the extent that Democrats won the states which voted for the republicans for nearly a quarter of a century.

As for the new administration's policy at international arena, Larijani predicted that the U.S. would become further isolated, would become further distant from Europe, but more inclined towards the Pacific.

In the Persian Gulf region and in oil-rich Arab countries, the Democrats would follow a policy of further domination and utilization of oil revenues of the area, said the paper.

Pointing to crisis in Iraq as a major issue in the Persian Gulf area, the article said that Baghdad was hopeful to settle its disputes with the new administration and believed that the President-Elect Bill Clinton had no obligation to pursue policies of the former administration.

However, it added, in addition to Clinton's views expressed during his presidential campaign, U.S. attitude towards Iraq would be characterized by several factors, above all a more powerful U.S. domination over oil resources in the region.

To this end the U.S. should first gain the confidence of the Arab governments of the region and on the other hand should maintain their need for presence and intervention of America, said the daily.

Therefore, Iraq's Saddam Husayn should remain but his power should gradually diminish while Iraq should be divided into three regions, two with oil resources to meet U.S. interests. The article further added that for the U.S. it would be better to have two "new Kuwaits" in northern and southern Iraq than an integrated country, and in that case Washington would prefer to keep Saddam in power in the middle part, otherwise the new oil-rich states would need no gendarme to protect them.

Even more interesting would be the necessity of an aggression by Saddam Husayn against the two new oil-rich states not in the near future but as soon as their oil revenues were accumulated, it noted.

The paper concluded by saying that if such predictions were to become true, it should be said that the U.S. policy was on the verge of a drastic change in the Persian Gulf region.

Velayati Says U.N 'Failing' in Bosnian Efforts

LD0711161392 Tehran IRNA in English 1523 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said today that softly-worded resolutions and lenient positions of the United Nations towards the crisis in Bosnia-Hercegovina (B-H) have encouraged Serbs to continue their crimes.

"Western countries which speak about human rights have not taken serious measures to stop these crimes," Velayati told IRNA. He termed the crimes committed by Serbs in the heart of Europe as the worst kind of crimes one may perpetrate.

Comparing the stands taken by the U.N. Security Council on the issue of Kuwait and its approach to the crisis in the Balkans, he said the council was failing to live up to its charter regarding the latter problem.

The Islamic republic has done all within its power to mobilize regional and international circles as well as Islamic countries against the Serbian crimes, and is still continuing its efforts, noted the foreign minister.

Among diplomatic measures taken by Iran in this regard are its participation in a meeting of Muslim foreign ministers in Istanbul, efforts to urge non-aligned countries to take a position against such crimes, and the contribution to efforts at the U.N. headquarters which led to the expulsion of the so-called state of Yugoslavia from the organization, he said.

On Tehran's position towards developments in northern Iraq and the attack of Turkish forces on the region, Velayati said "as a matter of fact, Iran does not confirm the infringement of a country's sovereignty by another country. Iran is a very keen to follow this principle of its foreign policy in the region."

He reiterated that any decision taken by the majority of the Iraqi people is respected by the Islamic republic, but it is not yet known whether the decision made by certain Iraqi opposition groups in northern Iraq is acceptable to the majority of people or not.

Velayati, underlining the need for the establishment of democracy and holding free elections in Iraq, said Iraq's ruling government like any other government should give its people an opportunity to express their views, something which is among the primary rights of people.

The meeting held recently in Salahuddin, northern Iraq by a segment of Iraqi opposition forces who chose a three-man leadership has been rejected by the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) the main opposition to the government in Baghdad.

On the Islamic republic's viewpoints on Afghanistan, Velayati made it clear that Iran by no means intends to interfere in the internal affairs of that country.

"What we want is the establishment of a stable government favoured by the majority of people, the start of reconstruction and return to home of Afghan refugees," the foreign minister pointed out.

He refuted as biased the West's allegation that Iran was pursuing expansionism, and said the aim of such propaganda was to frighten regional states and to drive them towards certain Western countries.

"The Islamic republic has proved that it does not favour tense relations with its neighbours...the war with Iraq was actually self-defence. We did not initiate the conflict and we have never made excessive demands after the war," he said.

Towards the end of his interview, Velayati, terming the policy of regional cooperation as "successful", said the Islamic republic welcomes such a policy.

Velayati Urges ICO Aid for Bosnian Muslims

LD0811174692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has expressed the hope, in a letter to Hamid Algabid, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], that the emergency meeting to be held in Jeddah will make a speedy decision to end the massacre of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

In part the letter, referring to the policy of ethnic cleansing pursued by the Serbs in Bosnia-Hercegovina, warns: Now that the catastrophic dimensions of the tragedy in this region are growing and are seriously threatening the lives of the Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina, the Islamic ummah has greater expectations from the ICO than from any other international organization for an effective intervention and defense of the guaranteed rights of this region's Muslims.

Thanks to a proposal by the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Islamic Republic's perseverance in this regard, the Jeddah emergency meeting is to be held on 1 and 2 December, with the participation of the ICO foreign ministers. The meeting is taking place to discuss a speedy solution so that the massacre of the defenseless Muslims in the region may be halted and so that the policy of ethnic cleansing, which the Serbian criminals are, unfortunately, still continuing, may be stopped.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Condemns Bosnian 'Oppression'

LD0611184692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1203 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Second Friday sermon by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 6 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] My main discourse in the second sermon—in both the Arabic and the Farsi sermons—which is generally devoted to the week's events and current affairs, concerns the issue of Bosnia-Hercegovina. This is an issue on which I would like to expound for your sake and for the sake of history. I will also mention, albeit briefly, some other issues. [passage omitted]

One of last week's events was the National Day of Struggle against Global Arrogance, on which, praise be to God, our ummah demonstrated their presence on the scene, as in the days prior to and following the revolution. [passage omitted]

I have a great many things to say about 13 Aban [4 November], but since today I consider the Bosnian issue to be of greater significance, I will be very concise. The root of that day lies in the issue of capitulation [last word

in English], and the Imam's exile. I fully remember the early instances of the development of that profound event, since I was present from the very first instance. When the Taghuti [literally idol-worshipping, but used as derogatory term to describe deposed Pahlavi regime] Majles ratified our membership to the Vienna Convention—on which basis they accepted capitulation, that is to say, [foreign] judicial power [on Iranian soil], which is one of the ugliest manifestations of the vulgar colonialism of the past era—and the news was leaked from the Majles and brought to the Imam's attention, the Imam became infuriated. I was commissioned by the Imam and came to Tehran, where I acquired minutes of that Majles debate, by way of centers such as the home of the late Behbahani. I took the text of the Vienna Convention to the Imam, and after studying it, the Imam made some important decisions; he began a serious struggle, which constituted the Imam's first confrontation with American policy in our country. American policy had been present in other issues, but covertly; however, on that occasion, America's presence became open since it wanted to impose that decision on government and Majles. [passage omitted]

They could not endure the Imam's presence, hence 13 Aban became the source and the start of a historical event. From that day on we marked 13 Aban—a day on which they had delivered us a blow—with ceremonies, one of which led to the large-scale massacre of the students, near the time of the revolution, which itself became another event. The third stage was the occupation of the den of spies [U.S. embassy], but this time the attack was launched by our own nation, and in particular our students. [passage omitted]

The important issue for us these days—which is very important, it is really the issue of the day—is the Bosnian issue. It is a strange occurrence [hadese]. The more one delves into this catastrophe, the sadder one becomes. For mankind today this occurrence, this catastrophe, this prolonged matter is a lasting, ignominious blot, and if they do not remedy this, it will become worse than the Palestine issue. I will presently explain what is happening. [passage omitted] The Balkans have always had critical problems for a long time. This region was under Islamic rule in the past; the Ottoman government ruled there and the people there were under Islamic rule. That is why there are numerous Muslims there. And the number that exist there now are [those left] after several bloody purges. [passage omitted] They are Muslims with roots. They have not just migrated there. They are from there and have an Islamic past there.

The important issue seems to be that the world infidels [kofr-e jahani], arrogance, world despotism—according to the analysis of the eminent leader of the revolution [Khamene'i]—and...[changes thought] Now following that, the Zionists and other things are afoot. They think Muslims should not have sovereignty in this eastern gate of Europe and this route which connects Europe to Asia and the Middle East. One feels such a thing. They have not said that; they have not stated that outright; it is not mooted in the West as a thesis. But we gather that from [their] action. They think that this path must be un-Islamic. Well, this is very hard. That so many people should be wrested from their homeland; so many people should be evicted by force, made homeless, killed, maimed! In today's world such things cannot be done, cannot be put into practice.

You see now that in the [former] Soviet republics there are places where, 70 years ago, they imagined they were obliterated during Stalin's era. They made people emigrate from one place to another so that they carried out genocide at that time—carried out racial eradication [nasl-kani]. But now that they have become slighty liberated after 70 years we see that voices are raised in every corner: either for language, religion, ethnicity, or geography. They are speaking their minds and are seeking independence.

I do not understand what they [the West] are thinking. Can the Bosnian nation be made to disappear [mahv kard]; can it replaced? Maybe they think this can be done. It seems they think in this way. The same thing has been done in Israel. Those of us who are somewhat older and have known the Israeli issues from their inception—those who have studied such issues—know that they started in the same way [as in Bosnia]. This is the same method in principle; it was the same in Israel. The Israelis wanted to evict Palestinian Muslims and bring Jews from around the world there. They started in exactly the same way. They staged extremely brutal, horrendous incidents so that certain people would flee. This was the Zionist terrorists' policy. [passage omitted]

Some people think that correspondents report on certain incidents out of compassion. In fact, some report to intimidate. They report on a significant incident, say, a slaughter. As a result, the rest of the people who live in villages, in the vicinity, become frightened, gather their belongings, and flee. Just the same thing happened in Israel. At night they would raid a village, for instance. They would segregate men and women. They would bring out the women, undress them in front of the men, and put them in open-top lorries. They would parade the girls round the streets stark naked, so that the people would be frightened. They wanted to safeguard their honor, so they would say: We will come back. That was their slogan. Now we see that after 30 or 40 years, they have not yet come back. Now they think—the Westerners apparently think, I believe—that this occurrence is repeatable. Similar crimes committed by the Zionist terrorists in Palestine are being repeated in Bosnia. The form of those crimes has changed according to the times, but the camps, bombardments, rapes, killing of children, hunger, thirst, and embargos are all the same.

First of all, I should mention that the West is making a mistake. If this is what they are seeking, then I believe that they are committing a major blunder. What are they going to do with this nation of several million people? Next it will be the turn of Kosovo, Sandzak, and Macedonia. There are millions of people in this region, and

they are European, as well. Even if they are driven out, they will be dispersed mainly in European countries. Ordinarily, few of them come to Asian countries, and we should not think of attracting them in this direction, either. They go there, but the enmity created will not leave their hearts.

The person who has experienced his brother or his father being killed, or his child being tortured, will not forget what has happened. History will not forget to record those events. Future generations will not forget them either. If the Bosnian refugees find themselves in Germany, Britain, or France tomorrow, will they then leave the European people alone to live comfortably? Millions of people have experienced the worst kinds of oppression, which history will register and newpapers will write about. Films will remain and the evidence of what has happened will remain with Bosnian families. They will ruin the lives of those who are sitting there merely watching those atrocities taking place. And the Bosnians are not alone. The Islamic community will not be forgiving on that issue, either. The Western governments are now perhaps thinking to themselves that those wretched weak Arab governments have yielded to holding talks with Israel, believing that everything is finished. They are also making a mistake. Even if the weak Arab governments were able to end their peoples' problems, would Muslim peoples respect their signatures in the future? Those signatures are worthless. Is it possible that the people will accept Palestine remaining Jewish forever?

Was this area not in the hands of crusaders for nearly two centuries at the time of the crusaders? The Muslims threw them [the crusaders] out. All it takes is one incident in the world while America is involved in domestic issues—which we can see taking place now—and the people will deal with them. [Crowd chants God is Great, Khamene'i is the leader, death to America, death to Israel]

If they regard the issue of Palestine as a model, and think that it is over, they are mistaken. This model is not finished yet. Impossible as it may sound, even if it is finished one day—which it will not be—Bosnia remains different from Palestine. It is European; the people there will not leave Europe. You [the West] should maintain the pretence of freedom that is found in Europe; caught up with the pretext of freedom, these people will not leave you alone. However, if dictatorship were reestablished, you would have to deal with new concerns.

In any case, what are you, the West, thinking about now? You are sitting comfortably, issuing resolutions, sending instructions, and dispatching news that the Serbs have killed so many today, or massacred so many, or have done this or that. You are the same people who, when Kuwait was in danger and your oil was threatened, descended on Saddam in a flash, mobilized all your facilities within a few days, sent troops financed by those same wealthy Arabs who are not prepared to spend their vast fortunes on Bosnia, and spent billions upon billions on Kuwait and saved your oil wells. This has not been forgotten. The world knows that if you wanted to [save Bosnia], you would have done so already.

Why are you tolerating this horrific oppression in the world? Why are you not stopping these oppressors? Why are you allowing such a big stain on mankind's history? Why did you spoil the United Nations, which was beginning to build a reputation for itself in the world because of its past work? So it came to light that it was a mere tool for you at the time [of the Kuwaiti crisis], and was not making its own decisions. You are spoiling everything. You are causing mankind to lose hope. It means that wherever you, the West, do not wish [to prevent it], any injustice can be committed. And any oppression you wish to be committed is committed. If a situation involves those who are already dead, you need not concern yourselves immediately. But the world is not like that today. You are mistaken.

Another mistake is that of the Muslims. For some time, we have been asking the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] to hold a session so that we could look into Bosnia as soon as possible, since the cities are falling one after another. They have arranged for the ICO to hold a session in a month or a month and a half. But the Arab League and various councils have held sessions repeatedly on false and fabricated issues, such as that concerning Abu Musa island.

The Bosnian issue is one that should be considered. We are far away from Bosnia and cannot do much. One of Bosnia's problems is that it is besieged. The Croats are all around Bosnia, and where there are no Croats, there are Serbs. The creatures of God in Bosnia have no access to the sea or anywhere else. Even those around them who wish to help take half, or two-thirds, of the aid being delivered, so only a third of the aid reaches them. However, in spite of all the problems that have been created for them, they have kept up their morale, are standing strong, waging holy war, and making sacrifices. Muslims will not forsake them, in any case. If they are oppressed in one stage of history, God will avenge them in another. We will stand with them to the end.

We advise Western powers and the United Nations not to be indifferent concerning an incident that could bring centuries of calamity and problems to the region and the world, make life really unpleasant, and disturb the peace. They should seriously look into the matter and stop this horrendous oppression, and let the people there live like the rest of free Europe. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Official Discusses Bosnian Aid

LD0611132292 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1625 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Studio interview with Morteza Bank, Iranian Foreign Minister director general for eastern European Affairs, by unidentified announcer, on 5 November in Tehran; from the "Political Roundtable" program —live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Thank you Mr. Bank for participating in this program. Recently we witnessed a visit to Iran by the president of Bosnia-Hercegovina. Could you please tell us about that visit and its outcome?

[Bank] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Mr. Izetbegovic, the president of Bosnia-Hercegovina, visited Iran at a time when the Geneva session, which was in fact the outcome of the London meeting, announced a number of decisions and issued a number of statements on the future of Bosnia-Hercegovia, some of which were not accepted by the Serbs. In any case, it was in that situation that Mr. Izetbegovic began his visit to a number of Islamic countries.

His excellency first visited the UAE and then came to Iran. During our discussions with his excellency in Tehran, we discussed a number of topics. The future of Bosnia is a very important issue, and in our opinion and the opinion of the president of Bosnia, we in fact see Bosnia as a body, which if it continues to exist and live, can act as a support center for Muslim people. Naturally Islamic countries should pay attention to the protection of that body as an important issue, and we held some good discussions in that regard.

Another issue we discussed was the role of the international community and the countries which have an influence on the future of Bosnia, and we hope to be able, God willing, to take better coordinated and organized practical steps toward defending the people and Government of Bosnia at the Islamic Conference Organization and international circles. We also naturally discussed the continuation of the Bosnian people's resistance and the needed support and preparation in that regard. During various talks we assessed different ways of providing that support.

I am very optimistic about the outcome of the discussions, because we reached agreement on a number of issues. Obviously, one of the things that the Bosnian Government needs is financial capability, and Islamic countries should become more active in that regard; Mr. Izetbegovic visited the region in order to attract that kind of support.

Another issue is that winter is approaching, and considering the severe cold in that region, we think the people of Bosnia should be supported in order to be able to protect themselves. The countries which have energy resources should provide serious support. We reached a good understanding with Mr. Izetbegovic in that regard.

The Muslim resistance there certainly is in need of nonmilitary and military support. Naturally, we discussed ways that would enable us to remove the arms embargo, and when, God willing, the arms embargo is lifted, then other kinds of aid should also be sent to them, which we also discussed and achieved near practical understanding [tafahomat-e nazdik be 'amal].

[Announcer] Mr. Bank, we are witnessing that in Europe, despite the fact that the continuation of the crisis is a loss for the Europeans, they are actively following this line. What is the reason for this?

[Bank] On European action regarding Bosnia-Hercegovina, if I am allowed, I will elaborate on the position of various groups which share an interest in Bosnian issues, which are active in that regard, and I will also say what form the activities take and what results they bring. [passage omitted] Another point is that the West likes to resolve problems and issues arising in Europe by itself and with its own resources, so that it can be registered as a success which it can manifest in such crises.

Another point is that there is a trend in the West not to resolve problems by force, mainly dealing with them politically. In fact, we can conclude that the West is active in politicizing the issue; there is not much understanding about the future of Bosnia, but there is a great deal of sensitivity in the West regarding the formation of a Muslim government in a European country. [passage omitted]

The result of Western action revealed itself in a conference held in London; that is, the Westerners—which includes the European Community, the CSCE, and members of the UN Security Council—convened the London session. They envisaged measures which to a certain extent are to the benefit of the Bosnian people. But the initial results of the conference basically show that no reference has been made to the Bosnian Government, the sovereignty of that country, and its territorial integrity. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Then did Mr Izetbegovic visit Iran and other Islamic states because he has given up on the European states and is seeking succor from Islamic states?

[Bank] We can assess this. Mr Izetbegovic's foreign policies, which are based on looking to Europe and the West, have undergone some change. The reason for this is that the the European states' actions have not born any positive results for the people of Bosnia. [passage omitted] Taking into account those points, we see that the Bosnian issue is still continuing, that the West has acted in this manner and has been unable to resolve the problem, despite the fact that it holds many losses for them.

[Announcer] Thank you. How do you assess the future of Bosnia-Hercegovina?

[Bank] Going back to the second part of our talk on the positions adopted by various factions, we saw that the Serbs were to effect changes in the distribution of the Muslim population, their objective being to disburse the country's Muslims. The Serbian aim is to populate more areas with Serbs. They also want to weaken the power of Bosnia to such an extent that if it ever managed to form itself into a country, such a country would be dependent

on Serbia. That way greater Serbia would command greater power and territorial sovereignty.

Meanwhile, the Islamic countries have also embarked on some moves. We cannot describe these moves as bad moves, but in my view they are not at the optimum level either. Some Islamic countries have made positive contributions; we have embarked on suitable and useful moves. Now all these measures must be coordinated. In fact, the sum total of the efforts by the Islamic countries must be outstanding enough to catch the eye of international organizations. That way it would leave an impact on international affairs and have a real influence on the future of the people of Bosnia. No doubt, the people themselves must also put up resistence; that goes without saying. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Serbs cannot have really good ties with Western Europe or with the international organizations. This is part of the region's history. Some European countries have usually been at loggerheads with the Serbs. [passage omitted]

Taking that view into account, we believe that the future of Bosnia will be shaped by the strength of the Bosnian peoples' resistence as well as the help which Muslim countries provide. If the Muslim countries press their demands in that region, then we believe that the Western countries will enter the arena to solve the problem with more serious efforts, mainly because the West does not want the issue to develop into a Muslim versus non-Muslim issue. Whenever we as Muslim countries have adoped a serious stand, we have seen that the West makes good adjustments in its policies. [passage omitted] Muslim countries can have a decisive impact; they must definitely work hard to lift the arms embargo on the Bosnian Government. The differenes between Croats and Bosnians must be solved. That way I believe that the Geneva plan—dividing the country into eight regions—would be in the interests of the Muslim people. Then adjustnents must be made to preserve sovereignty in Bosnia. Otherwise, it is possible that Bosnia would be divided up, which is not good for the Islamic community. [passage omitted]

Daily Calls for World Action on Bosnia

LD0711133992 Tehran IRNA in English 1249 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—An Iranian daily said in its editorial Saturday that the indifferent attitude demonstrated by some countries towards Serbs atrocities in Bosnia-Hercegovina would set a wrong example for the future dictators who would want to pursue their aims through violence.

The English daily "TEHRAN TIMES" asked why the international community did not feel pressed to take action against the carnage in Bosnia and why the West felt no compunction to defend the universally-accepted moral values being violated in that area.

The Serbs crimes are well documented, said the daily adding "then why continue to waver, why limit the response to a haphazard relief aid or a limp deployment of UN peacekeepers?"

"Doesn't the gravity of the situation call for a more urgent cooperation among the powers to stop the bloodshed? Isn't Serbian aggression in Bosnia big enough a threat to civilization to justify and inspire the same spirit of cooperation incited by Saddam's aggression against Kuwait?"

The daily further questioned what the world was waiting for and asked if the Serbs were "so potent, so risky to confront that it requires more time to consider a strategy?"

Stressing that the world is responsible "to act with determination and knock some sense into the heads of Serbs", it said that current developments only persuaded Serbs to continue their ethnic cleansing, and "the indifferent attitude demonstrated by some countries would set a wrong example for the future dictators who would want to pursue their aims through violence."

"This would be a triumph for chauvinism and a loss for democracy and freedom."

The editorial emphasised that the rage shown by the world public opinion towards Serbs should be expressed through proper channels adding that "only in that case would we be able to safeguard peace in Bosnia and civilisation in the world."

Velayati Departs for Kabul, New Delhi

NC0911074492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Dr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister, left for Kabul this morning at the head of delegation for talks with high-level Afghan officials. During this visit, Dr. Velayati is expected to discuss the broadening of bilateral relations and the agreements reached during the visit of Borhanoddin Rabbani, the interim Afghan president, to Tehran.

This is the first high-level delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to travel to Afghanistan since the victory of the Afghan mojahedin.

On the conclusion of his visit to Kabul, the foreign minister will leave for New Delhi to participate in the Iranian-Indian Joint Commission at the official invitation of his Indian counterpart.

Kurdish Group Head Arrested; Members Executed

NC0711210392 Paris AFP in English 2007 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov 7 (AFP)—An official of a leading Kurdish opposition group in Iran was arrested and members of a counter-revolutionary cell were executed,

Information Minister 'Ali Fallahiyan-Khuzestani [title as received] said in comments published Saturday by the KAYHAN newspaper.

He said that Iranian intelligence services had arrested an official of the Marxist Komala movement and that a military group backed by "counterrevolutionary elements" in Iran had been dissolved and its members executed, but gave no further details.

Kamala [as received], created in 1969, is firmly entrenched in the Sanandaj region, the Iranian Kurds' stronghold, and had recently stepped up its anti-government activities .

Fallahiyan-Khuzestani said members of the intelligence services had begun a major operation to root out subversive elements.

The minister, who spent time visiting the zone bordering Iraqi Kurdistan, urged the Kurds of Iran to remain vigilant in the face of events in Iraqi and Turkish Kurdistan. "Counterrevolution has no place among the population," he said.

Iran is trying to render impermeable its border with Iraqi Kurdistan, where the Iraqi opposition has effectively proclaimed its autonomy.

Majles Deputy Criticizes Azeribaijani President

LD0811090592 Tehran IRNA in English 0840 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA—A Majles deputy on Saturday condemned the recent statement of Azerbaijan President Abulfaz Elchibey and warned him against repeating such "irrelevant" remarks in the future.

The Azeri president, during a visit to Turkey last week, had called for the overthrow of the Islamic Republic of Iran while vowing allegiance to Ataturk by describing himself as a faithful follower and soldier of him.

"On behalf of the Azeri people in Iran, I warn Elchibey that the Azerbaijanis would not tolerate repitition of such nonsense," said Ms. Fatemeh Homayun Moqaddam, a member of parliament from Tabriz, east Azerbaijan Province.

Speaking in an interview with IRNA, she added that she suspected that such statements had been uttered in "normal political and physical conditions."

She urged "the rulers on the other bank of the Aras river" not to be influenced by the West.

Referring to the generous aid of Iranian nation and government to alleviate the Azerbaijan republic's complicated burdens, Ms. Moqaddam said "apparently the leaders of the People's Party (of Azerbaijan Republic) lack the political maturity and experience required to recognize and understand the ways of good neighbourly relations."

Demirel Cancels Official Visit Over Dress Issue

LD0611201992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] The Turkish prime minister has cancelled a visit to Iran by the Turkish minister of state for economic affairs. BUGUN, a newspaper published in Istanbul, writes: The cancellation of Mrs. Tansu Ciller's visit to the Islamic Republic was because the Iranian authorities have stressed that female foreign officials should wear Islamic dress. According to the paper, Mrs. Ciller was to have participated in a session of the Islamic Development Bank in Tehran.

BUGUN adds: The visit by the Turkish minister of state for economic affairs was cancelled on the direct order of Suleyman Demirel.

Demirel Visit, Relations With Ankara Viewed

NC0911155392 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 27 Oct 92 p 2

[Editorial: "On The Other Side of Demirel's Diplomatic Compliments"]

[Text] Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel arrived in Tehran at the head of a political delegation yesterday.

The arrival of the Turkish prime minister and a high-ranking Turkish delegation to Iran has again focused domestic attention on the nature and dimensions of Tehran-Ankara relations.

After arriving in Tehran, veteran Turkish politician Demirel stressed the significance of relations between the two countries, the need for regional tranquility and stability, and the need for countries not to interfere in each other's affairs. Demirel also described the most recent crisis in the two countries' relations [the Cape Maleas incident], about which much has been said in both Tehran and Ankara during the past few months, as "an issue that concerns the Turkish judiciary" and refused to undertake any responsibility in that connection.

Frankly speaking, if we go beyond Demirel's diplomatic compliments in Tehran, there are currently three major problems in our relations with Turkey. The Turkish guest referred to these in his remarks. These three issues are: the need to ensure regional stability; the need to respect the principle of nonintervention in each other's affairs; and the Cape Maleas incident. In the first case, it should be said that regional stability is being threatened today by the extensive deployment of foreign forces in the region, particularly in southeast Turkey. Perhaps none of the existing parameters threatens regional stability and security as much as the heavy presence of foreign military forces in the region. Unfortunately, Turkey is one of the mentors and supporters of this presence.

In the second case, there are the extensive and unprecedented operations by the Turkish ground and Air Force and their advance 8 km inside Iraqi territory, as well as the official statement that this is taking place to crush the anti-Ankara Kurdish rebels.

This is also threatening the stability and tranquility of the sensitive border region shared by the three countries of Turkey, Iraq, and Iran. We should add that opposition to the military suppression of the Kurds in Turkey or in southeast Turkey does not mean intervention in that country's domestic affairs. (The repercussions of the Turkish Army's infiltration of northern Iraq notwithstanding, the military crushing of the Kurds is another issue that should be discussed.) If this fierce and extensive suppression is considered a domestic issue, how can the suppression of the blacks in South Africa, of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, and so on... be criticized in international forums?

The third issue is the Cape Maleas incident, which Turkey instigated by impounding the ship in Turkish water; it has continued with contradictory and unfriendly stances by the Turkish officials. In this connection, we draw the attention of the visiting Turkish prime minister and his delegation to long-lasting ties between the two countries and their religious, cultural, and historic links having been marred by unfavorable controversies in the past few years. This does not benefit either side. We consider the impounding of the ship carrying Iranian goods to be one of these controversies and believe that it benefits both countries to solve this most recent difference as soon as possible.

Editorial Discusses Kazakhstan President's Visit

NC0911094192 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 31 Oct 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Nazarbayev is Welcome in Tehran!"]

[Text] The Kazakhstan President, Nursultan Nazarbayev, arrived in Tehran today at the head of a high-ranking delegation. This is the first trip to Iran by Nazarbayev, who had been in Ankara along with another head of state from the Central Asia.

After the collapse of the former Soviet Union, the new republics which emerged from the old socialist empire lacked any program on which they could base their practical programs. And the Central Asian Republics are in much worse condition in this respect because of their economic and social backwardness.

Western countries, in particular the U.S., are worried about an ideological vacuum in these republics, and the best solution they could come up with was to present the Turkish system as a pattern which could be used by the Central Asian Republics. Furthermore, they came to the conclusion that to present the Turkish pattern as a viable solution they would have first to scare off the new Republics from the Islamic Republic of Iran. To achieve this end several methods were used.

They started by creating the illusion for the leaders of these republics that Iran was trying to gain domination over these countries. They also launched propaganda campaigns over various issues to alienate the new republics from Iran. In the case of Kazakhstan, for instance, the propaganda campaign centered on the theme that as Kazakhstan was in possession of advanced nuclear weapons, and Iran is supposedly interested in gaining access to atomic weapons, any rapprochement between Tehran and Alma-Ata was publicized as an attempt on the part of Iran to gain access to nuclear arms.

To demonstrate the absurdity of such propaganda, it will only suffice to point out that Iran has friendly ties with countries that are much more advanced than Kazakhstan in the nuclear arms field, and Western countries do not seem to have any objections to Iran's cordial relationships with those countries.

Political leaders in Kazakhstan must have realized by now that all these propaganda campaigns follow only one objective: to prevent the regional countries from collaborating with one another in the solution of their own economic problems.

But Iran and Kazakhstan, because of their extensive cultural affinities, and because of the fact that both countries have access to the Caspian Sea, can be good economic friends and partners.

As for the so-called Iranian plans to interfere in the internal affairs of the new republics or to gain spheres of influence in those countries, fortunately the U.S. propaganda has met with complete failure. And Iran's mediatory efforts in bringing to an end the hostilities in Nagorno-Karabakh have clearly demonstrated what countries are seeking to gain spheres of influence in the new republics and what other countries want merely to have healthy political, economic, and cultural relations with these countries.

From Tehran's point of view the choice of patterns, on which the new republics could base their political, economic systems, are entirely internal affairs which have to be decided through democratic means by the peoples of the new republics themselves.

Kalantari Offers Agricultural Aid to Central Asia

LD0811230792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] A group of agricultural experts from the Republic of Turkmenistan have completed a course in the mechanized cultivation of sugar beet from planting to harvest. They received their certificates at Mashhad's agricultural research institute.

During the presentation ceremony, Agriculture Minister Kalantari announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to cooperate with and offer assistance to the newly independent Central Asian countries in the field of agriculture.

Also during this ceremony, a representative of Turkmenistan's Agriculture Ministry thanked the Islamic Republic for creating facilities to train experts from Turkmenistan. A second group of Turkmen experts are currently receiving training at Mashhad's agricultural research institute.

Japanese Envoy Studies Technical Ties

LD0811184992 Tehran IRNA in English 1644 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Tabriz, East Azerbaijan Prov., Nov. 8, IRNA—The total value of Japan's imports from Iran in 1991 was about dlrs three billion, 99 per cent of it crude oil, according to Japanese envoy to Tehran Tsuneo Oyake now visiting Tabriz.

The Japanese envoy who is here to study prospects for the future cooperation between Iran and Japan in technical and technological areas said Japan relies on Iran for 10 per cent of her total oil products imports, making Japan the biggest single buyer of the Iranian oil products.

Japan's exports to Iran last year, which were mainly machinery and industrial products, were worth dlrs 2.5 billion.

He said Iran and Japan have been successfully cooperating in several joint projects in Iran, such as the Mubarakeh steel mill in Isfahan, modernization projects of the same steel mill, auto-tire manufacturing in Kerman, a project for assemblying Japan-made Nissan pick-up trucks in Iran, oil refineries in Arak and Bandar Abbass, and in several other micro and macro projects.

On Saturday night Oyake reviewed issues in connection with Iran-Japan industrial cooperation with the Governor General of East Azerbaijan Province 'Ali Abdolalizadeh [name as received]. He said Japanese entrepreneurs would be willing to make investments in promising industries in east Azerbaijan Province.

Abdolalizadeh, too, welcomed projects for transferring Japan's technology to the east Azerbaijan Province.

Rafsanjani Discusses Supreme Jurisconsult

LD0611233392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 6 Nov 92

[First Friday sermon by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 6 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

Today I will continue the debate on social justice in the course of which [in previous sermons] I had arrived at the topic concerning the relationship between the government and the nation.

My audience know that ever since I assumed responsibility for delivering the Friday prayer sermons, the debate on my first sermon has been on social justice. [passage omitted]

A relevant point to which I must refer preliminarily is the fact that there are basic and important differences between the view of Islam on government and the secular views which exist in the world. This is a point which can be brought into our debate on social justice.

In principle, divine religions look at phenomenon of rulership from an angle which is not the same as the angle from which secular societies and thinkers look at that phenomenon. Of course, there are common views between the two groups but religious rule is a special entity unto itself.

We infer from the Koran that at no time has there ever been a society without a ruler—which is what it should be. However, the real rulership belongs to the prophets—within a special framework. That is, he who rules must have specific qualifications. Moreover, his rulership is confined within a specific frame. And he must gain the consent of the people. He cannot rule as he wishes.

There are three principal pillars to divine rulerships. Though I like to concentrate on the Islamic system of rulership, I must say that the same three pillars applied to rulership by the earlier prophets as we understand from the Koran.

The first pillar is that the people must accept, and pledge allegiance, to the ruler which is the same as the electoral system existing in secular governments of the popular kind.

Second, the ruler must rule within a specified limitation. Even though the people accept him, it does not mean that the ruler can do as he pleases. And in the case of divine religions the limitations imposed on the powers of the ruler are the religious tenets. If the ruler exceeds those limitations then he is no longer a qualified ruler.

Third, the ruler himself as a person must also have specific qualfications. If the people accept somebody and he becomes a ruler but lacks the necessary qualfications, then his rule will not be an agreeable one. [passage omitted]

Therefore, as I have said, in Islam, in which the system of rulership is the continuation of divine rule, there are three main conditions, one of which concerns the qualifications of the ruler himself.

Now if we live in the time of the Prophet himself, then the ruler is the same as the infallible person. He is infallible and cannot err—may God prevent him from making mistakes. That way, there is no danger of personal weakness influencing the system of rulership. [passage omitted]

At a time when there is no living infallible person among us, the mantle of rulership falls on the supreme jurisconsult [vali-ye faqih]. Vali is derived from the word velayat. When such a person is one who is a qualfied faqih [theologian who must be qualified in terms of knowledge as well as morals] then we have the supreme jurisconsult. When a qualified faqih becomes the ruler then he is a qualified vali. [passage omitted]

You see that in Shiite theology, in the absence of the infallible ones we have special conditions as to who can be a ruler. He who has those qualification is he who can be the ruler. Now if such a person does not exist, then we will have a rulership out of necessity but that will not be the desirable one.

The second point concerns limitations on the supreme jurisconsult. Once elected and acclaimed as qualified to be the supreme jurisconsult, the said person cannot rule at will. He must definitely rule within the limitation of Islam and according to Islamic tenets. Departure from Islamic criteria will usher in the first difficulty—it brings about corruption and destroys the first qualification of the ruler. [passage omitted]

The third point at present, as specified in our Constitutional Law, is the requirement of elections. That is not an innovation by us nor is it a heretical move. This has been derived from the principle of pledging allegiance [bey'at] [passage omitted].

Pledging allegiace is the people's vote; however, it is a little more than that. Voting is an expression of view while the pledge of allegiance] by people incorporates the commitment by the people to obey the ruler. Of course, at present our practice concerning elections is at a lower level than that of pledging allegiance. We practice what is the custom of our time. [Passage omitted]

In our country, the voting [for the ruler] is indirect. That is, the people elect their experts who then elect the leader. The system can be a direct one. It can be that the people are able to elect candidates directly. In our Constitutional Law, we have devised it that way [indirect election] because of the technical problems which otherwise might have happened in practice. That was the more practical form for us. [passage omitted]

Paper Says Expatriates Deserve 'Second Chance'

NC0911092192 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 28 Oct 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Give Them a Second Chance"]

[Text] The issue of the return of the Iranian expatriates has come to the fore again after the recent statements by the Head of the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic to the effect that all Iranians who have not committed any crime can return home, provided they accept the sacred tenets of the Islamic Revolution.

The topic of the return of the Iranians residing outside the country, especially the expert expatriates, and the possibility of their collaboration in the reconstruction projects of the country, has often been discussed, and conflicting views on the issue have been expressed in the country's mass media.

It is an indisputable fact of the contemporary world that economic considerations are among the determining factors in the destinies of nations.

At the end of World War II Germany and Japan were war-torn and devastated countries which had to start everything from the scratch. Now, after less than half a century, they have become two of the most powerful nations in the world, mainly through their exceptional economic progress which has placed them among the G-7 group of countries who meet every year to outline the future course of the world and shape the economic destinies of almost all nations. Thus it would be no exaggeration to state that economic success forms the basic requisite for any type of social accomplishment.

Iran is a vast country, abounding in all kinds of natural resources. The country thus has great potential for unlimited social and political progress. But to achieve economic progress, which, as was stated before, forms the basis of the general social advancement, we should be able to use all the local manpower we can mobilize.

It is unfortunate that the dangers of war, and particularly the adverse propaganda campaign carried out against the Islamic Republic, caused numerous talented and capable Iranians to emigrate, and put their expertise in the service of foreigners.

But now that the country has put behind the bitter experience of war, as well as the sabotage attempts of the political groups affiliated to the foreign countries, and the Islamic Republic has established its rightful and firm position in the international diplomatic scene, the country should adopt the policy of attracting all the Iranian manpower who are wasting their talents in alien lands.

There are certain people who tend to view with persistent skepticism those emigrants who left the country at a time when the entire nation was under extreme pressure and faced great hazards.

The answer to such skeptical view would be that, apart from economic considerations and the fact that the country's shortage of expert manpower has to be provided from some source, it is not in keeping with the Islamic ethics to deny our compatriots a second chance to prove their loyalty and worth, when it is ascertained that they are sincere in their adherence to the values for which the nation has gone through a prolonged period of sacrifice and hardships.

First Locally Manufactured Troop Ship Launched

LD0711141292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Report by an unidentified Central News Unit correspondent in Bushehr]

[Text] The first Iranian-built naval logistic troop ship manufactured at the Persian Gulf Shipbuilding Factory was launched during a ceremony before 1200 today to join the Iranian Army's 2d Naval Fleet.

The Kalat naval logistic troop carrier is 47-m long and 8.5-m wide with a capacity of 4,500 tonnes and two 3,500 horsepower engines. It is capable of carrying 100 Marines, 80 tonnes of fuel, and 100 tonnes of water. The production cost of the vessel was equivalent to 300 million rials and $60,000 in hard currency.

Nepal

Government Fires Foreign, Cabinet Secretaries

BK0611163092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1613 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 6 (AFP)—The 18-month old Koirala government has dismissed 290 civil servants including several senior secretaries, state radio said Friday.

Those who lost their jobs included Chief Cabinet Secretary Damodar Prasad Gautam, Foreign Secratary N.B. Shah, Secretary for Health Mokunda Shumshere Thapa, and the member secretary of the National Planning Commission Bhubanesh Kumar Pradhan, it said.

The dismissals, made on the recommendations of a high level Civil Administration Reform Commission headed by Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, included more than 14 special class officials who served during the previous 30-year partyless Panchayat system.

Gautam was succeeded by Cabinet Secretary Madou Sudan Gorkhali and Shah was replaced by Nepalese Ambassador to Moscow Yadav Kant Silwal, the radio said without giving full details of other changes.

Dismissals were also based on the fact that those concerned had completed 30-years of government service or had reached the age of 58, it said, without elaborating.

Pakistan

Japanese Royal Couple Visit Reported

Terrorist Alert at Airport

OW0811060292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0521 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 8 KYODO—Pakistan has declared a red alert at its airports because of threats received from a guerrilla group on the safety of Japanese Prince Akishino and Princess Kiko, who start a five-day royal visit Sunday, a leading newspaper reported Sunday.

The news, published in Islamabad and Karachi, said a Japanese Embassy official has told Pakistan security officials that he received letters from the Red Brigade guerrilla group containing threats to the life and security of the couple.

Prince Akishino and his wife are flying into Karachi on Sunday night for a visit that will take them to Islamabad, Lahore and Peshawar.

The report quoted an Interior Ministry source as saying an international security agency also has alerted them about the possibility of attempts on the royal couple and some "Japanese installations in Pakistan."

Prince Akishino, the younger son of Emperor Akihito, and his wife are currently on a 20-day tour of Thailand, Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka which started Thursday.

Couple Arrives in Karachi

OW0911010692 Tokyo KYODO in English 2306 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 9 KYODO—Japan's Prince Akishino, the second son of Emperor Akihito, and his wife Princess Kiko arrived in Karachi late Sunday for a four-day visit to Pakistan.

The royal guests were received at the airport by Foreign Secretary Shahryar M. Khan [name, title as received] and the Japanese consul general in Karachi.

On Monday, Prince and Princess Akishino will lay a wreath at the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam and meet Japanese residents of Karachi. They will also visit the Agha Khan Hospital and a Karachi zoo.

The royal couple will fly to Islamabad Monday afternoon aboard a special aircraft.

Prince Lays Wreath at Mausoleum

OW0911101692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0731 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 9 KYODO—Prince Akishino and his wife Princess Kiko on Monday laid a wreath at Quaid-e-Azam, a mausoleum in Karachi dedicated to Pakistan's founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah.

The prince had flown into Karachi in the late hours of Sunday, and had a busy schedule in the city Monday before he was scheduled to fly to Islamabad in the afternoon.

He will visit Agha Khan Hospital, Karachi zoo, a handicraft shop, and will address the Japanese residents in Karachi.

The prince's schedule in Pakistan also includes a visit to Peshawar and Lahore.

Agreement Reached With India on Train Services

BK0911090492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Pakistani and Indian railway departments will benefit from each other's experience, especially in the fields of laying, repairing, and maintaining railway tracks; manufacturing coaches and engines; and the computerization of various railway systems. An agreement to this effect was finalized at the conclusion of a five-day discussion between the railway delegations of the two countries in Islamabad yesterday. The Indian Railways' delegation led by the Indian Railway Board chairman, Y.P. Anand, met Railways Minister Haji Ghulam Ahmad Billour. They discussed bilateral cooperation to modernize the railway systems of the two countries.

Indian Agencies Accused of Killing Citizens

BK0811151292 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, today telephoned prominent human rights activist, Mr. Ansar Burney, advocate, at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences [PIMS] and inquired about his health. The prime minister paid tributes to Mr. Burney over his services to the cause of suffering of humanity. The prime minister told Mr. Burney that the entire nation is proud of his services.

The special assistant to the prime minister [and federal minister for petroleum and natural resources], Chaudhary Nissar Ali Khan, visited Ansar Burney, adovcate at PIMS. Talking to Mr. Burney Chaudhary Nissar Ali Khan expressed his grave concern over the mysterious killings of Pakistanis by the Indian agencies during the last few weeks. He said the Government of Pakistan will raise the issue at the international level. India, he said, continues its stubborness over the issue and Pakistan will review entire ambit of its relations with that country.

Mr. Bureny said he will soon visit the UN to inform the world body about the human rights violations by the Indian Government.

Textile Talks With EC End in Failure

BK0811094892 Karachi DAWN in English 8 Nov 92 p 1

[By Shadaba Islam; from the "Business Supplement"]

[Text] Brussels, Nov 7—Pakistan and the European Community have failed to resolve their wide-ranging differences over trade in textiles despite two days of talks in Brussels ending Nov 6.

Officials say bilateral talks on a new EC-Pakistan textile restraint agreement and EC demands for restrictions on certain key Pakistani textile exports will resume in December.

In a move which took the Pakistani negotiating team by surprise, the European Community started the discussions in Brussels by threatening to impose new restrictions on Pakistan's exports of blouses, gloves and table linen, products which are subject to regional quotas under the current pact.

A formal demand for consultations on restricting imports of trousers, undergarments and bathrobes—products which are allowed free entry under the present agreement—was lodged with Islamabad last month.

Pakistan's chief negotiator Naseem Qureishi told DAWN that he made it clear that he expected the EC to become more rather than less liberal in the run-up to the creation of a single European market as of next January.

"We expect these regional quotas to be dismantled as of 1992," Qureishi insisted. "Instead of freeing them, they are upgrading the restrictions. This is really of great concern."

Pakistan is also demanding more flexibility in the new agreement.

EC negotiators have warned all textile exporting nations, including Pakistan, that they will get only a "flat rollover" of the current bilateral pacts, pending the completion of the now badly-stalled Uruguay Round.

Pakistan argues that the delay in the outcome of the Uruguay Round penalises Pakistani textile traders who have been unable to get internationally accepted growth rates and quota uplifts since 1986.

"Our exporters are not getting the concessions and the liberal stance that were due to them," Qureishi underlined. "All concessions have been put on hold while waiting for the end of the Uruguay Round."

The EC also "rolled over" its textile agreement with Pakistan last year, saying any major improvements should only be negotiated within the framework of the GATT Round.

Qureishi and other EC officials have told the EC that Pakistan's cotton industry has been hit by a "market calamity" triggered by the fall in world cotton prices and the "natural catastrophe" of recent floods.

"I tell the EC about these two problems when they talk of their own recession," Qureishi said.

Businessman Rashid Soorty, Chairman of Pakistan Readymade Garment Manufacturer and Exporters Association, told DAWN that he believed European consumers still wanted to buy good quality Pakistani textiles and clothing. He also voiced fears that the trade war

shaping up between the EC and the United States would hit other developing countries, including Pakistan.

"The Cold War shuld not be replaced by an economic war," he insisted.

Nasir Sheikh of the Pakistan Bedwear Association warned Europe not to turn into a "fortress", underlining that Western Europe's recession made it even more urgent that consumers were given access to low cost textiles.

Both business leaders have stresssed that Pakistan is a leading importer of European textile machinery. "If Pakistan exports more textiles, it will be in a position to import more textile equipment from Europe," Soorty said.

Saudi Official, Kanjoo Discuss Kashmir Issue

BK0811161692 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Saudi Arabia has once again assured Pakistan of its full support for the Kashmiris right to self-determination. The assurance was given by the Saudi foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, during his meeting with the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, in Jeddah.

Earlier, in Abu Dhabi, the minister of state for foreign affairs called on the UAE president, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al-Nuhayyan, and briefed him on the latest situation in occupied Kashmir. Mr. Kanjoo welcomed the efforts of the friendly countries to pressurize India to resolve the Kashmir dispute. Developments in Afghanistan and Central Asian Republics also came up for discussion during the meeting. Mr. Kanjoo also held talks with his UAE counterpart, Shaykh Hamdan Bin Zayid al-Nuhayyan, on further strengthening the economic and trade relations between the two countries. Both sides reviewed the progress made at the last Joint Economic Commission meeting in Islamabad and agreed to further activate the forum.

Official Apprises Butrus-Ghali of Kashmir Issue

BK0711123092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] The Secretary General for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Akram Zaki, has had a 30-minute meeting with the UN Secretary General, Mr. Butrus Ghali, in New York last night and briefed him on the current situation in occupied Kashmir and Pakistan's efforts to resolve the dispute with India through negotiations. He also told the Secretary General about the grave human rights violations by Indian troops in the occupied territory. Mr. Akram Zaki said he had informed Mr. Butrus-Ghali about Pakistan's (?difficult) experience during last month's attempt to cross the Line of Control by Kashmiris. The Secretary General for Foreign Affairs said his impression is that Mr. Butrus-Ghali has full concern for the sufferings of the people in Occupied Kashmir and that the UN chief will move to settle the dispute at an appropriate time. He said he also briefed the UN chief about the latest developments in Afghanistan. The UN Secretary General thanked Pakistan for the troops contributed for peacekeeping purposes in Somalia and Cambodia.

Government Halts Issuance of ID Cards

BK0711160892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] The government has directed the director general, registration to stop issuing computerized national identity cards in Islamabad and Rawalpindi Districts. The directive was issued by the government after the decision to introduce a column for religion in the national identity cards. In Islamabad the director general has said, however, the identity cards, which are indispensably required, will continue to be issued. He said the Directorate General, Registration will not face any technical or administrative difficulty in implementing the government's decision to include a column for religion in the national identity cards.